

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

The Hart beat
As pants the Hart on the
heels of Mondale:
Christopher Thomas
reports from Florida
Because they're there
Adventure holidays
around the world

Power flower
The crowning glory of
orchids: Tony Samstag
on the flower of kings
Boy and bye
Beryl Downing on the
future of shopping
Cup and up
Stuart Jones and Clive
White look ahead to the
weekend's FA Cup
matches

Dimbleby to be blacked, says NUJ

Leaders of the National Union of Journalists said that only two of their members were prepared to defy their instruction to black David Dimbleby's BBC television Budget programme. They earlier the union's chapel (church office) at Lime Grove was voted by 73 to 58 not to black the broadcaster, whose newspaper group is in dispute with NUJ members. Page 2

Falkland denial

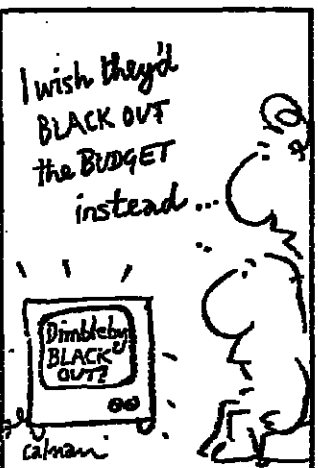
Mr Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, denied he had agreed to lead Britain a helicopter carrier if either British carrier in the Falklands conflict had been disabled.

Bank complains

Barclays Bank has filed a complaint to the Press Council over an article in *The Sunday Times* about a business account used by the Prime Minister's son Mr Mark Thatcher.

Belfast boost

Harland and Wolff, the Belfast shipbuilders, have won a £9m order from International Towing Management of Middlesbrough, to build six barges to service offshore rigs.



Aegean crisis

Greece recalled its ambassador from Ankara last night after five Turkish destroyers were reported to have fired shells towards the Greek destroyer, Panthor near the Dardanelles.

Killer on run

The police were searching last night for Richard Conbrugh, aged 50, serving a life sentence for murder, who escaped from his escort after attending classes at Motherwell.

Howe for Israel

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit Israel later this year. In January he made a five-day visit to the Arab world. Page 5

Close chairman

Brian Close has been elected the cricket committee chairman of Yorkshire, and Geoffrey Boycott is to serve on the general committee. Page 22

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Letters: On economic policy, from Prof F A Hahn and Prof R M Solow; head teachers on probation, from Mr D M Hart; Dimbleby case, from Mr Giles Smith.
Leading articles: Budget; the Gulf boxing.
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Miners' leaders will back all areas that strike

From David Felton, Labour Correspondent, Sheffield

Miners' leaders yesterday officially backed next week's strike in the Yorkshire and Scottish coalfields. They also took the unusual step of declaring support in advance for strike decisions in other areas of the National Union of Mineworkers which are holding key meetings during the next two days.

The first step aimed at pushing the miners towards a national confrontation over pit closures was agreed by the union executive meeting in Sheffield, which at the same time heard the improved redundancy terms announced less than 24 hours earlier by the Government to persuade younger miners to leave the industry.

The terms being introduced at the end of the month guarantee £1,000 for every year of service to miners aged between 21 and 50 who agree to take voluntary severance, which in some cases amounts to a threefold increase on the present arrangements.

The first of the area meetings is in Cardiff today. Delegates from the militant South Wales coalfield will decide whether to strike with their colleagues from Yorkshire and Scotland next week.

Mr Emyln Williams, the union's South Wales president, proposed the move at yesterday's executive meeting to support the northern strikes, and this may be a pointer to the possible outcome of the Cardiff meeting.

The moderate Lancashire and Nottinghamshire areas meet tomorrow but Yorkshire

members said last night that if miners in neighbouring Nottinghamshire did not join the strike they would need pickets to close the collieries.

Mr Ray Chubb, the union's Nottinghamshire president, who has said his members will be instructed not to cross picket lines, had a rough reception from about 200 miners lobbying yesterday's meeting and shouting "Scab".

Mr Michael McGahay, the Scottish miners' president, said after the six-hour meeting: "I think it is a situation that will escalate".

The executive backed the Yorkshire and Scottish strikes after a right-wing attempt to commit the union to a ballot of its 180,000 members with a recommendation for a national strike was heavily defeated.

Only Mr Trevor Bell, general secretary of the union's white-collar section, who proposed the move designed to outflank the militants, Mr Ted McKay, of North Wales, and Mr Roy Otley, of the Midlands power group, voted for the ballot.

The decision to support area strikes was taken under the rule allowing the executive to back strike decisions by area councils.

Militants hope that with the official backing there will be a "domino" effect and other areas will go for stoppages. The tactics also avoids having to call a national ballot in which the executive would need a 55 per cent vote for a national strike.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, said the executive took its decision in

response to the "belligerent" attitude of the National Coal Board and its chairman Mr Ian MacGregor, who on Tuesday announced a four-million-tonne cut in production next year threatening the future of 20 pits and 20,000 jobs.

A statement by the executive said: "No area is safe and none will escape from the 'MacGregor Plan'. Areas such as Yorkshire, north Nottinghamshire, the Midlands, as well as coke works, workshops, transport departments and the offices of clerical staff will all be affected."

The redundancy plan laid before the House of Commons in a Parliamentary Order on Wednesday is bound to prove attractive to younger miners who until now have been offered a severance scheme much inferior to the early retirement payments available to older miners.

Many miners in yesterday's lobby - from the 14-south Yorkshire pits which have been on strike all this week - said the scheme would encourage many more men to leave.

A miner aged 39, with 19 years' service, would get a lump sum payment of £19,000, compared with a £7,467 payment under the present scheme.

A miner aged 25, with at least five years' service, would expect less than £600 but under the new scheme would get £5,000.

Mr Scargill urged members not to be tempted by higher payments which he described as selling "the job prospects of their sons and daughters".

14% rise in prescription charges

By Nicholas Timmins

Steep increases well above the rate of inflation in National Health Service charges for prescriptions, spectacles and dental treatment were announced yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

Charges for private patients using health service pay beds are also to rise, but in general by smaller percentages, with the cost of private beds in most postgraduate hospitals in London, which set the benchmark for what private hospitals in London can charge, actually dropping by 20p to £167 a day.

The changes, all from April 1, mean an increase of 20p, more than 14 per cent, in prescription charges to £1.60, an eight-fold increase since the Conservatives came to office. Four-month and 12-month "season tickets" for prescription charges rise by similar percentages from £7.50 to £8.50, and from £21 to £24 respectively.

The maximum charge for routine dental treatment rises by 7.4 per cent, up £1 to £1.50, but the maximum charge for

Iraqi attack raises fear for Gulf ships

By Colin Hughes

Mr Richard Lacey, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday protested to the Iraqi Ambassador in London over an Iraqi aircraft's missile attack on the British ship *Charming*, in the Gulf.

In the House of Commons the Prime Minister rejected a call from the Social Democratic Party leader, Dr David Owen, for a United Nations maritime peacekeeping force to be sent to the Gulf region to protect merchant vessels caught up in the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr Margaret Thatcher told him it would be "extremely difficult, if not impossible, to send a force of British ships to the Gulf region to protect merchant vessels caught up in the Iran-Iraq war."

The Government was reacting to the attack on the 19,200-ton cargo vessel, *Charming*, owned by Vespa Shipping of Guernsey, which is now lying abandoned in the Khor Musa waterway leading to the Iranian bulk-cargo port of Bandar Khomeini. The 14 crew have left Iran having suffered no serious injury.

The Merchant Navy and Air Line Officers' Association yesterday asked the National Maritime Board to extend the 150- to 200-mile "war risk zone" to the Gulf region, as the *Charming* was in a danger of being captured by Iranian forces.

The General Council of British Shipping said they would consider the claim, but emphasised that the *Charming* was not UK-registered. No UK ships had ventured up to Bandar Khomeini since last autumn, and none had visited Iran's main oil terminal in the war risk zone, at Kharg Island, since early this year.

There are 11 British ships further south in the Gulf, and the General Council said it was "closely monitoring the situation" to ensure they were not in danger.

Yesterday the Iran Insurance Company reacted to a decision by London brokers, to double premiums for Gulf vessels to 1.5 per cent, by offering a 1 per cent premium.

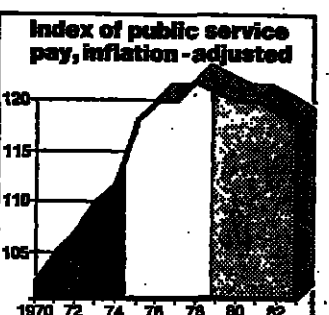
Tortured Iraqis, page 11
Leading article, page 13

Strike halts French services

From Diana Geddes Paris

Hundreds of thousands of French workers in the public services sector went on strike throughout the country yesterday in the biggest single display of union discontent since the Socialists came to power in May 1981.

The strikes were called by the three unions representing a majority of the five million civil servants, local government workers, teachers, and workers in other public services, in protest against the Government's alleged failure to keep its promise to keep wages in line with inflation.



The unions claim that the purchasing power of public sector wages has been cut by between 1 and 4 per cent over the past two years. The

Art of letter-writing flourishes against all the odds

By Alan Hamilton

Despite the explosion of electronic communication, declining standards of literacy and the difficulty of buying a stamp on Sunday the British have not entirely lost the art of writing letters to each other, according to a survey published yesterday by the fibre-tip pen and pink writing paper trade.

Research by the Letter Writing Bureau, a front organisation of the stationery industry which has the backing of the Post Office, indicates that in 1983 we sent each other 679 million personal letters, an increase of 37 million on the previous year. The figure excludes all greetings cards, business letters, bank statements, junk mail and financial demands from the Inland Revenue.

But there is no concealing the fact that, compared with

previous decades, personal letter-writing has tended to go the way of tramcars and the wank-up gramophone. The golden age of written communication between individuals was the 1940s and 1950s: in 1950 the Post Office handled 8,500 million letters and estimates that half of them were personal, sent from one private address to another.

We are barely even back to the levels of 1900, when the Post Office delivered 2,323 million letters, which by its rough rule of thumb would indicate that about 1,100 million of them were items of congratulation, condolence or mere conversation between individuals.

The survey largely confirms the expectation that the letter is a better vehicle for self-expression than the telephone, that the telephone has lost its novelty and relative cheapness,

that women write more than twice as many letters as men and that the most ardent writers are the over 65s, who pen 45 missives a year compared with the national average per author of 37.

Among the less expected findings of the survey is that the second most prolific age group are the 16 to 24s, who write an average of 36 letters a year each.

As their principal category of communication is the love letter, and as they follow the overall trend of many more female than male authors, it must be concluded that many an expression of undying affection remains disappointingly unexpressed. Or else the youthful Romeo prefers to express his feelings down the relative anonymity of the telephone.

The survey also found that the most ardent letter-writers

of all age groups lived in the south-west of England and in Scotland. The north-easterners and the Welsh are the least prolific.

Details were compiled from the Post Office's own statistics, together with the replies to 75,000 questionnaires.

Among the reasons given for a continued faith in letter-writing were that they were more costly than telephone calls, called for thought of their recipients just after they had put the telephone down, sending a letter brought the equally pleasurable anticipation of a reply, letters could be kept and re-read many times and a letter showed more appreciation and effort than a telephone call.

Letters were also seen as a way of maintaining friendships. "If I left the letter-writing to my husband we wouldn't have any friends left", one woman told the researchers. "We still

got some from my husband when we were courting and that's 11 years ago", another said.

Perhaps significantly, 60 per cent of all personal letters are sent by first-class post, which is well above the average for all mail. But the personal letter - which is defined by the Post Office as an item sent from one private address to another which is not a greetings card - still accounts for only seven in every 100 letters delivered, thus preserving a certain rarity value among the advertising circulars and rule reminders.

What the survey does not show is what the letters say. Gone are the days of yachting, of separated families, assuring each other that they are still alive and well. But we still appear to retain sufficient powers of self-expression to ensure that the letter, if not the letter, of Austen lives.

EEC delay worries Thatcher

By Julian Haviland Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday urged Britain's partners in the European Community to reach agreement on fundamental reforms before the elections to the European Parliament in June.

But she told Conservative MEPs meeting in private in London, that if the Community's problems were not solved at the Brussels summit on March 19 and 20 they would just have to be solved later.

Her speech reflected the growing belief in London that unless the main lines of a settlement are agreed now, the final agreement, which will be signed in July, will be delayed.

The fear is that domestic pressure within member states, particularly West Germany and France, during the intervening election campaign may tend to increase the differences which President Mitterrand has been working diligently to reduce.

MPs reject complaint over Oman

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

The Commons Select Committee on Members' Interests last night decided to reject a complaint that the Prime Minister should have declared her son's alleged interest in the £300m contract to build a university in Oman.

Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, had submitted that Mr Mark Thatcher, alleged interest in the Cementation contract should have been disclosed in the Commons Register of Members' Interests.

The all-party select committee, which has an inbuilt Conservative majority, rejected the submission, without a vote.

Verbatim minutes of the proceedings will not be published but it is also understood that Mr Sedgmore will be formally given a warning that if he publishes his memorandum, he will not be covered by parliamentary privilege.

Mr Sedgmore, a non-practising barrister, had told the committee that he felt free to publish in the light of the Speaker's ruling which implied that such action would not be a contempt of the House.

Backing for Bill to bar criminal jurors

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is backing a private member's Bill which for the first time will disqualify from jury service anyone who has served a custodial or suspended sentence, who has been put on probation or has been placed under a community service order.

The measure is expected to double the number of people disqualified from sitting as jurors from the present 250,000 to 500,000.

The Bill, the latest of several attempts to tighten jury eligibility, is aimed at ensuring convicted criminals do not sit on juries in the wake of what has been called an "epidemic" of "juror shopping".

At present, anyone imprisoned for more than three months and up to five years is disqualified for ten years and anyone imprisoned for over five years is disqualified for life.

The most recent attempts to change the law, because of concern about the extent of "juror shopping" was made by Lord Harris of Greenwich and Lord Wigoder whose Bill completed its passage in the Lords but was not given time in the Commons.

That would have disqualified adults convicted of two or more indictable offences. A second measure, a private member's Bill backed by six Conservative MPs, was aimed at disqualifying anyone convicted of any offence punishable with imprisonment. The latest measure is considered a middle way.

The practice of approaching jurors to secure a particular verdict, reached a head at the Central Criminal Court, where by the end of 1982 some 13 trials had been halted.

Mr John Watson, Sponsor of new measure.

Report puts boxing on the ropes

Professional boxing came under fire in a British Medical Association report issued in London yesterday which found that brain damage was common in boxers and could even be produced by a single blow.

The BMA regretted that the British Boxing Board of Control did not assist in the inquiry. The report will be considered at the annual representative meeting in Manchester in July, which is likely to reaffirm the 1982 decision to campaign for boxing's abolition.

The report suggests that boxers sign a consent form, similar to the one given to patients in hospital before an operation, spelling out the risks.

BMA campaign, page 3
Leading article, page 13
Sport, page 24

Spending paper short of target

By Frances Williams Economics Correspondent

The Government's long-awaited Green Paper on public spending over the coming decade, to be published with the Budget next Tuesday, looks increasingly unlikely to stimulate the informed debate Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, says he desires.

Only the Treasury's pledge to include nothing remotely controversial persuaded the Prime Minister to agree to publication. As a result, the Green Paper contains no numbers for spending and revenues for the period beyond 1989 and no discussion of alternatives to maintaining, in broad terms, existing levels of services.

Mr Lawson will be hoping that his radical, tax-reforming Budget will distract attention from the thinness of the document.

There is also some embarrassment in the Treasury that the new projections do not bear out its warnings 18-months ago that, without savage cuts in spending, taxes might have to rise by as much as £15 billion.

Instead, the paper makes it clear that if public spending rises no faster than prices, and the economy grows at a modest pace, there is scope for taxes to come down.

Its projections for the next five years assume that the economy will expand by 2.25 per cent a year.

Leading article, page 13

For those who want more than just decaffeinated coffee.

The taste of Gold Blend, too.

Nescafe Gold Blend decaffeinated

FREE DRIED INSTANT DECAFFEINATED COFFEE

*Nescafe and Gold Blend are registered trade marks to designate Nescafe's instant coffees.

سكس من الفصحى

NUJ says only two TV members will defy 'black Dimbleby' order

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Leaders of the National Union of Journalists said last night that only two of their members were prepared to defy their instruction to black Mr Dimbleby's BBC Television Budget programme.

The NUJ leadership issued letters to editorial staff at the time Grove studios, ordering them not to work with Mr Dimbleby.

The move came a day after the chapel [office branch] at the studios voted by 73 to 58 not to black the broadcaster, whose newspaper group is in dispute with NUJ members.

An impromptu meeting yesterday of most of the 25 NUJ members working on the Budget programme decided to tell their editor that they would obey the union instruction.

A BBC spokesman said last night that the corporation was still planning "at the moment" to put out its Budget special next Tuesday with Mr Dimbleby as presenter. But with the need to draft in non-NUJ personnel at the last minute, union sources said that the

quality of the programme would inevitably suffer.

Mr Dimbleby is chairman of the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* series of newspapers which is in dispute with the NUJ because printing work was transferred to TBF Printers, a company associated with T. Bailey Forman which has a long-standing conflict with the journalists' union.

An injunction was won by Mr Dimbleby ordering the NUJ executive to stop giving its blessing to the newspaper dispute.

A meeting of the television division of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs, which represents technicians, yesterday voted to support the blacking of Mr Dimbleby, but stopped short of deciding to take action itself.

If the ABS stop work NUJ sources believe that it would be "extremely difficult" for the Budget programme to go out.

It is understood that ABS leaders were reluctant to instruct their members to take action before they knew the response of NUJ members.

Mr Bill Keys, leader of the printing union Sogat 82, is to seek urgent talks with the International Thomson Organisation, owners of the Withy Grove printing works in Manchester, and with the management of national newspapers whose northern editions are printed there, after a statement from Thomson that it is ending all its main printing contracts by the end of 1985 (Graham Seargent writes).

Thomson Withy Grove, which employs about 1,800 people directly, was once claimed to be the biggest newspaper printing centre in the world.

It has lost nearly £6m in the past eight years and Thomson has been reviewing its future since it ceased publishing its own *Sporting Chronicle* last July, increasing the overheads to be carried on remaining work.

Thomson wants to sell Withy Grove to its main customers, Mirror Group Newspapers, the Daily Telegraph and News International.

Letters, page 13

Protest at selling of pines

By Ronald Faux

There was angry reaction in Scotland yesterday from conservation organizations to the clear felling of 100 acres of ancient pine forest at Abernethy, on Speyside.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the forest area, one of the finest of Caledonian pine forest which once covered 6,000 square miles of the Highlands, had been destroyed. The "dwindling fragment" remaining was a home for rare birds, including the osprey, Scottish crossbill, and crested tit.

It said that an internationally important wildlife centre had been lost without any consultation with the Nature Conservancy Council, which had classed the site as one of special scientific interest.

The felling was carried out by the Seaford Estate, owners of the woodland, with agreement from the Forestry Commission.

The Forestry Commission said: "Far from destroying the woodland this has ensured the survival of the pine trees—without sensitive management the forest would over-mature and decay."

The commission said there was no obligation on the owner of the woodland to consult anyone other than the Forestry Commission under the dedication scheme.

Plan to protect Norfolk

A proposal advocating a new statutory authority for the Norfolk Broads, with powers to control development and combat pollution, is being recommended by the Countryside Commission in a report published today.

The commission does not feel that the creation of a new national park would be a suitable solution to the problems of the Broads, which are far more industrialized than any of the existing 10 parks.

£400,000 award

Mr Keith Hampshire, aged 28, a former police constable, of Headingley, Leeds, was awarded £400,000 damages in the High Court yesterday for brain damage suffered in an accident when he was thrown from his police motor cycle.

£54,000 raid

The Observer newspaper was robbed of £54,000 yesterday by two men who forced Mr Brian Norry, to open the wages safe. They had earlier held him prisoner at his south London home for 12 hours.

More evidence of GCHQ disruption

By Peter Hennessy

The first industrial action to disrupt operations at the Government Communications Headquarters took place in 1969, 10 years before the earliest incident cited by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in the Commons.

About fifteen years earlier the idea of deunionizing GCHQ and its outstations had been raised by senior managers but it was rejected.

Among other fragments of the hidden history of GCHQ industrial relations, it is now emerging that Civil Service unions achieved a foothold in the organization only during the late 1940s when Mr Ernest Bevin was Foreign Secretary.

Before that, radio operators were permitted to belong to the Civil Service Union but their national officers were banned from GCHQ premises which were then located at Eastcote in the north-west suburbs of London.

The 1969 disruption affected not just Cheltenham headquarters but also monitoring stations in Cyprus, Hong Kong and Singapore. It arose from a pay dispute involving radio operators who were claiming parity with executive officers.

It broke out over the August bank holiday weekend and took the form of a work-to-rule. The dispute was resolved at the highest levels of government within a few days.

There was a further work-to-rule by communications staff at Cheltenham in the early 1970s in furtherance of a pay claim. Both that and the 1969 dispute did affect operations but they were not comparable in seriousness and extent to the stoppages of 1979-81.

Even after national union officials were recognized at GCHQ in the late 1940s, a separate staff-management Whitley Committee continued to function at Cheltenham for discussion of the most sensitive matters.

Membership was confined to those who had been "indoctrinated" into the true nature of GCHQ.

The High Court gave approval yesterday for nine Civil Service unions to challenge the government ban on union membership at GCHQ.

The Louis Blom-Cooper, for the unions, said: "Membership of a trade union has always been a right of employees without any discrimination at all. Therefore Crown servants equally have the right to membership of a trade union."

Productivity ridden by Pat Eddery

Irish luck on £5,000 horse

A group of Irish farmers and night telephone operators have made a profit of 295,000 Irish pounds on a horse called Productivity.

They paid Ir£25,000 for the yearling at the Goffs sales in Co Kildare 18 months ago.

Then John Oxx took on the Nishapur colt and trained him. The colt finished a close second under Pat Eddery in the

Irish Derby Day last year, his only race.

That performance attracted international interest and led to the Ir£300,000 sale to an unnamed British consortium. If Productivity was a big race for the new owners, the syndicate of 10 amateurs from Athlone, Co Westmeath will receive another Ir£100,000 as part of the agreement.

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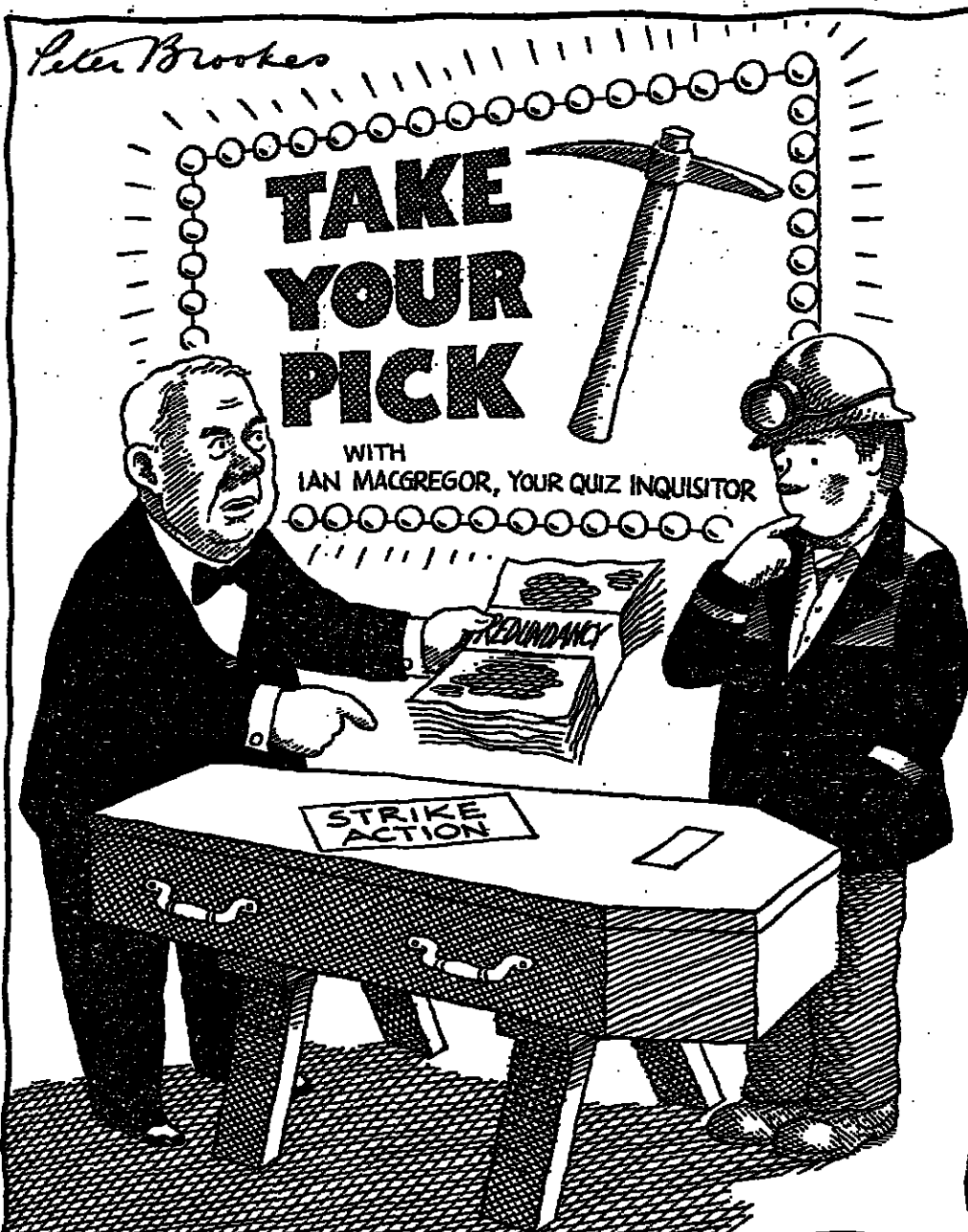
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£31m budget for war exercise

By Rodney Cawton, Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence is to spend £31m in September on its biggest exercise of British armed forces on the Continent.

The exercise, codenamed Lionheart 84, will involve nearly 130,000 British servicemen, almost half of whom will be specially transported across the Channel to West Germany.

Of the 57,700 servicemen crossing to the Continent, 35,000 men will go by air, but the exercise will also involve 82 sailings from Folkestone and Dover.

These will be in the first half of September when tourist traffic will still be heavy. However, a spokesman said the Army was taking great care to ensure that the mobilization did not affect civilian traffic.

Every four years Britain organizes a large exercise to practise the reinforcement of the British Army of the Rhine under conditions assuming tension that leads to war.

The last such exercise, in 1980, involved mobilizing 20,000 Territorial Army members and also transporting to West Germany 17,000 regular soldiers based in Britain.

Although the number of regulars going to West Germany this year is the same as in 1980, the number of Territorial Army members will rise to 35,000, and 4,500 reservists will also be involved.

About the same time other NATO nations will hold important exercises on the Continent, and altogether about 250,000 troops will be involved.

The RAF will have about 200 aircraft in the exercise, and will also take part in the other NATO exercises.

Special trains and road convoys will get the troops to the ports and bring them back at the beginning of October.

Most of the mobilization is assured to take place before the actual outbreak of hostilities, so the planning takes no account of the danger that the Channel would be heavily mined in actual war.

As usual in such exercises, the scenario assumes a defensive period followed by a counter-attack by the reinforced 1 British Corps in Germany. The hostile forces will be represented by West German, Dutch and American forces, and by the British 5 Airborne Brigade.

The ministry has set aside £8m of the £31m allocated for the exercise as compensation for damage.

The amount of damage will depend largely on the weather. Tanks moving over dry ground cause much less damage than over waterlogged ground, and the exercise is being held in September as the weather is likely to be dry.

In 1980 damage cost about £3.5m out of an overall £15m budget.

New use for radioactive waste

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Valuable commodities could be extracted from the radioactive waste from nuclear power stations. The reclamation would call for a change in methods of extracting high level radioactive wastes in the reprocessing of spent uranium fuel, but it would ease some of the difficulties of the final disposal of material, according to a report published yesterday by the Watt Committee on Energy.

The proposal for recovering materials of potential industrial use was made by Professor G. N. Walton, who was a member of a group of distinguished academics, industrialists and businessmen which produced a review that is intended to stand between the committed supporters and opponents of nuclear energy. His proposal is contained in a section on the disposal of radioactive waste and its impact on the environment.

The scheme would apply to the handling of the liquid streams of high level long-lived waste that are now stored in stainless steel tanks at Sellafield in Cumbria. Britain has accumulated about 900 cubic metres in the past 25 years of highly active liquid waste. The intention is to turn it into glass blocks for ultimate disposal.

The aim would be to separate many of the elements that are now discarded in bulk. In the unseparated form, radioactive elements that will need isolating from the environment for as long as thousands of years are mingled with short-lived ones which will have decayed into stable products in a few years.

The substances in the high level waste mixture include valuable metals such as palladium, rhodium, ruthenium and technetium.

Professor Walton suggested separation after storage for about 30 years in their mixed condition. Each element would then be kept in its chemical form, that had the lowest reaction energy, and would therefore be unable to react for thermodynamic reasons with their surroundings. Minerals remain in the earth unaltered for these same reasons.

A general sale of stamps and postal history at Sotherby's on Wednesday realized the hammer price of £535,526 (our Stamps Correspondent writes).

A remarkable single cover posted at New Orleans in August, 1861, which passed through the opposing lines in the American Civil War to travel via New York and London to the addressee in Paris, made £11,500 (estimate up to £5,000).

Two elaborately ornate gilt metal clocks made in the late eighteenth-century in the late eighteenth-century for £27,000 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000) and £15,120 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000). They had been offered by Christie's in Geneva last November and bought in.

A late nineteenth-century porcelain mounted carriage clock secured £2,052 (estimate £1,000 to £1,200) and a late Stuart ebonized striking bracket clock made £3,780.

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Labour MPs to campaign more in marginals

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Labour MPs are expected to spend less time at Westminster and more campaigning in the country because of the Government's huge Commons majority.

With no hope of defeating the Government on any main policy issues, it has been put to Labour MPs that their time would be better spent working in the marginal constituencies in which the party must win if it is to be returned to power.

The suggestion has been aired in a confidential consultation memorandum sent to MPs this week by a parliamentary Labour Party committee, set up to improve the effectiveness of MPs.

The committee, chaired by Mr Ian Mikardo, the former party chairman, advances the proposition that a day's work by a member in a marginal constituency "contributes much more towards our objective than sitting in a couple of committee meetings here or reducing the government majority in a ten o'clock division from 143 to 142".

A register is being compiled of MPs who would be prepared to spend time working in seats other than their own.

There are large areas of the country where Labour has no MPs. The register would be used to plan the most productive use of the available manpower.

Yet to achieve what the memorandum describes as the Herculean task of winning a majority at the next election, Labour would have to hold all its present seats and almost all those in which it came second last time.

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Council campaigner quits post to fight cuts in own area

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Sir Jack Smart, the Labour leader of Wakefield City Council, is to resign early as chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which represents all the large Labour-led councils that face abolition.

Sir Jack, who is 63, leaves on March 31 instead of in June. He is the focus of a bitter dispute about cutting services in Wakefield, and his resignation highlights the strains caused in the Labour party by government policy towards local councils.

He told the association's policy committee yesterday that after seven years as leader of the association's Labour group, "someone with a fresh outlook should lead them" into the battles which lie ahead.

Sir Jack, a former National Union of Mineworkers official, said he wanted to devote more time to ensuring that the people of Wakefield knew the Government was to blame for the devastation of services in Wakefield and the substantial rate increase they will face in the coming financial year.

But he said nothing about the dispute which has caused a split in his local Labour group. It centres on two nurseries in Wakefield which have been occupied by protesters since December when the city council announced that they were to be closed.

The council's policy of broad compliance with government spending demands aroused widespread opposition from the local trade union movement. Some opposition came from the National Union of Public Employees. Mr George Mudie, an official of the union and Labour leader of Leeds City Council, was tipped yesterday as Sir Jack's successor at the association.

Sir Jack said he accepted the advice given by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the

Opposition, at the local government conference of the Labour Party last month, that controlling groups of Labour councillors should stay in office and combat government policy legally.

Labour endorses rebels

Dr John Cunningham, the Labour Party's environment spokesman, yesterday threw his weight behind the six city councillors who have publicly criticised the majority on Liverpool City Council (Our Social Policy Correspondent writes).

Endorsing their rejection of the budget plans advanced by Mr Derek Hatton, the Militant-inclined deputy leader, Dr Cunningham announced there were "options" to allow a "sensible way forward".

Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, released the text of a letter to Sir Trevor Jones, the Liverpool Liberal leader, in which he held both the Liberals and Conservatives responsible for the Liverpool financial crisis but avoided supporting the stand taken by Mr Hatton.

Mr Kinnock appears to have persuaded Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC) from becoming involved with the Liverpool issue. The subject was not raised at the last meeting and the next meeting is not until the end of the month.

Meanwhile, NEC members who might have spoken out on Liverpool, such as Mr David Blunkett, the left-wing leader of Sheffield City Council, have kept quiet.

Dr Cunningham has invited Mr Hatton and the former Labour leader of the council, Mr John Hamilton, to London next Tuesday to discuss the city's budgetary problems. It is understood he will suggest ways of reducing outlays without cutting services.

Speed vital to save shipyard

From Ronald Faux, Glasgow

The two new partners in the Scott Lithgow takeover yesterday called for sacrifices and speed from Britoil, British Shipbuilders and the Government to secure a future for the Lower Clyde shipyard.

Mr Albert Granville, chairman and managing director of Howard Doris, and Mr John Fletcher, managing director of the structural and offshore division of Trafalgar House, said in Glasgow that the key to a successful deal was the ability of Scott Lithgow, under their management, to finish the stranded £86m Britoil rig contract.

The two former rivals for the yard were deep in negotiation with Britoil, but Mr Granville said that if an agreement was not signed by the end of next week there were doubts that it ever would be signed.

Mr Fletcher said: "Trafalgar House and Howard Doris came together because they saw it was essential that the situation was resolved quickly. It is important that other parties respond in the same way."

Mr Granville added: "It would be a tragedy if private industry had shown what could be done, as we have shown, and others did not show the same sense of urgency."

Both companies had made sacrifices, but if they had gone on competing with one another negotiations could have continued for several weeks and the result would have been no Scott Lithgow, he said.

The revised regulations will conform the right of servicemen to attend political meetings, but will now require them not to do so in uniform.

Which sources emphasized that the changes had no bearing on the rights of servicemen to vote in elections.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the Queen's Regulations were revised from time to time in the light of the needs of the services. On this occasion, the opportunity had been taken to clarify the details of the regulations for the benefit of commanding officers, some of whom had asked for clarification. It was essential that service personnel should be seen to be politically neutral.

Nine Greenham peace women were held in custody in London last night after being arrested with 10 others at a demonstration in Piccadilly that was one of several events to mark International Women's Day (Pat Healy writes). The 10 other women were all hailed to appear before Clerkenwell magistrates on March 27.

The nine women held in police cells overnight had all given the women's peace camp at Greenham Common, Berkshire, as their address. They were due to appear before Clerkenwell magistrates this morning. The arrests arose out of a demonstration by about 150 Greenham women protesting against an American-sponsored conference on missile technology.

Three peace women, Elizabeth Galt, aged 21, Sue Hogwood, aged 19, and Rebecca Johnson, aged 29, were sent for trial yesterday before Reading Crown Court on a charge of breaking into the air traffic control tower at the Greenham Common airbase last December. They appeared before Newbury magistrates.

Overseas selling prices

Australia \$2.75, Canada \$2.75, Denmark \$2.75, France \$2.75, Germany \$2.75, Greece \$2.75, Hong Kong \$2.75, India \$2.75, Italy \$2.75, Japan \$2.75, Korea \$2.75, Malaysia \$2.75, Mexico \$2.75, Netherlands \$2.75, New Zealand \$2.75, Norway \$2.75, Portugal \$2.75, Singapore \$2.75, South Africa \$2.75, Spain \$2.75, Sweden \$2.75, Switzerland \$2.75, Taiwan \$2.75, Thailand \$2.75, United Kingdom \$2.75, United States \$2.75, West Germany \$2.75, Yugoslavia \$2.75.

Mr Walsh said that the Danish cooperative was now planning to open a British centre, to be called the Future of Britain, to add to its existing schools in Denmark, Norway and St Vincent.

The Camden boys will return home next month after a year on the course, to decide if they



Miss Vicki Jung and Mr Joe Walsh at a press conference in Camden yesterday.

£300 a week a child, against £425 a week in a Camden home or up to £1,000 a week for secure accommodation in Britain.

Mr Alan Woods, Camden's social services chairman, said: "These are kids with whom all else has failed. We may now consider sending others who have not yet reached the end of the line."

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BMA repeats warning on boxing perils in new drive to ban the sport

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

There is evidence "beyond doubt" that brain damage commonly occurs in amateur and professional boxers, a report from the British Medical Association's board of science concluded yesterday.

Even one punch can cause permanent damage to the brain, which has little or no ability to repair itself.

Headguards may protect against cuts and eye injuries but they are little use in preventing brain damage, which happens when the jelly-like substance of the brain is shaken around inside the skull, and many blows, that do not cause knockouts can do the damage, the report says.

New X-ray scanning techniques have "serious implications" for boxing, the report says.

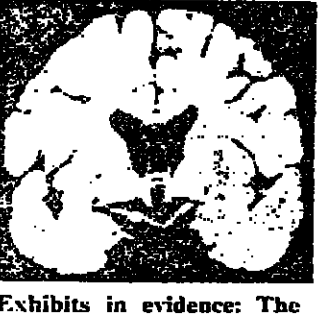
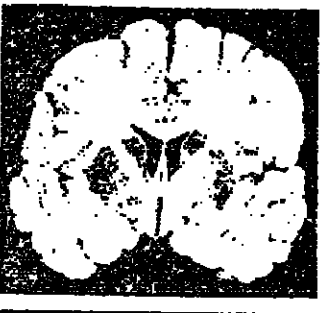
They show that the damage associated with the "punch-drunk" syndrome is now detectable before the clinical signs - slurred speech, staggering movements, poor coordination and memory loss.

"Brain damage is a likely consequence of boxing, whether in amateur or professional fighting," the report concludes.

The report is likely to inspire a campaign by the association this year to have professional boxing banned or at least to alter radically the rules covering amateur and professional boxing.

The report was commissioned to see if there was evidence to support the association's call at its 1982 annual meeting for a campaign to abolish professional boxing.

The report makes no recommendations but it suggests



Exhibits in evidence: The top photograph is of a normal brain, contrasted with a photograph (above) of a boxer's severely damaged brain

that boxers might be required to sign a consent form detailing the risks of acute brain damage. "Only then could it be truly said that boxers were choosing to continue to fight in the full understanding of the risks that they were running", it says.

It also suggests that a thumbless glove might reduce eye injuries.

The association will decide at its annual meeting in July how it will campaign.

Dr John Havard, the association's secretary and heavy-weight boxing champion at his school, said the Government, which had resisted making the wearing of seatbelts compulsory

but eventually introduced legislation, would "see the light" if the association decided to campaign on boxing.

The report, prepared by seven doctors including specialists in neurology, received evidence from the Amateur Boxing Association, the services, police and individuals, but not from the British Boxing Board of Control, which refused to cooperate.

The report says its chief medical officer, Dr Adrian Whitson, agreed informally to give evidence but that the board then refused to cooperate.

Mr Ray Clarke, secretary of the board which controls professional boxing, said it refused because the association, would first not rescind the motion calling for abolition.

They were inviting us to join a campaign to kill our own sport," he said.

He said the board would consider responding after a meeting next week but he accepted that boxing caused brain damage, just as other sports are dangerous.

The association's report says the outstanding feature of the brains of dead boxers is the "massive number" of altered brain cells.

Professor Bryan Jennet, Professor of Neurosurgery at Glasgow University, said studies of European champions in Scandinavia had found four out of eight amateurs and four out of six professionals had brain damage.

Report of the Board of Science working party on boxing (BMA, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP).

Leading article, page 13; Blinded by science, page 24

Big holiday firms press for curbs on BA

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

Three of Britain's largest holiday companies are calling on the Government to ban British Airways from both the charter flight business and all domestic routes after the state-owned airline is privatized next year.

Horizon Travel, Intasun and Thomson Travel say they are afraid that an entirely profit-oriented British Airways will use its lucrative monopoly on international scheduled routes to introduce subsidized prices and force the independent charter airlines out of the charter business.

The three companies run their own charter airlines: Orion, Air Europe and Britannia, which, they say could be jeopardized if British Airways is not specifically excluded from direct competition against them.

"They argue in a submission to the Civil Aviation Authority published yesterday that the aircraft charter business is the only sector of the airlines industry in which prices, sales and service levels are all left entirely to the market. That is in contrast to the strict regulation of international flights where British Airways is dominant."

Competition in the charter sector has led to efficient airlines, the three companies say.

"The competition fostered by the Civil Authority in the charter sector will no longer be in danger of elimination", the submission says. The companies want British Airways' own charter subsidiary, British Air Tours, to be sold as a separate concern before privatization. The companies also suggest that the smaller independent airlines in Britain should be left to operate domestic flights

BA brokers, page 17



Say cheese: Mr Albert Atkinson with a sample of Wensleydale bearing his name

Cheesemaster's farewell

A master cheesemaker, whose signature has appeared on millions of traditional English cheeses exported throughout the world, retires this week.

Mr Albert Atkinson, aged 63, helped to turn the manufacture of Wensleydale from a farmhouse industry to a business producing seven tons of cheese a day at Hawes in the Yorkshire Dales.

He developed the techniques that brought the cheese up to standards demanded by the Ministry of Agriculture after the creamery was set up as a cooperative by farmers with capital of £1,000.

The Milk Marketing Board bought the creamery for £200,000 in 1966 and introduced the baby Wensleydale and traditional cheeses bearing Mr Atkinson's signature as a tourist attraction.

John Lewis to pay worker-partners record £25m bonus

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The John Lewis Partnership, the staff-controlled department stores and supermarkets group, is paying a record bonus to its worker-partners which is almost half as much again as last year.

The group's 26,000 worker-partners will share £25m. Last year's £17m bonus was also a record. Bonuses are geared to pay levels and will be paid at 21 per cent of salary, which means that the average payout will for the first time exceed £1,000.

The payout is the second biggest in proportionate terms since the Partnership was set up in 1929. In 1979 there was a 24 per cent payout. Last year's was 16 per cent.

The Lewis family sold the group to the worker-partners for £1m under a trust arrangement and in 1950 gave up its voting rights. But the chairman of the Partnership is Mr Peter Lewis, grandson of the founder of the stores and nephew of the founder's son, Mr John Spedan Lewis, who set up the Partnership arrangement.

The Partnership operates 20 department stores and 76 Waitrose supermarkets. Two new supermarkets were opened in the last financial year and two others were relocated and expanded.

John Lewis benefited, like other retailers, from the consumer spending boom, but did better than the national average, according to the chairman.

Trading profits increased by 40 per cent to £70.8m, on sales of £1,072m which were up by 16 per cent. Allowing for inflation, the improvement in business in real terms was between 12 and 14 per cent.

The other big factor in swelling profits is that productivity within the group improved by about 8 per cent. The number of partners grew during the year by only 4 per cent.

Payments to the worker-partners will vary considerably because John Lewis has a

complex salary structure taking in factors like merit and differences between departments.

Scales are based on the going rates in retailing, which for a typical sales assistant in the provinces are about £3,700 a year and in London about £4,800. A provincial bonus on that basis would be just under £800 and in London marginally more than £1,000.

In the new financial year, which started at the end of January, Mr Lewis forecast reasonably good sales with further growth in real terms. But any increase in Partnership profit was likely to be "quite small", he said, because of pay increases and the addition of a fifth week of annual holiday

New owner for Ben Lomond

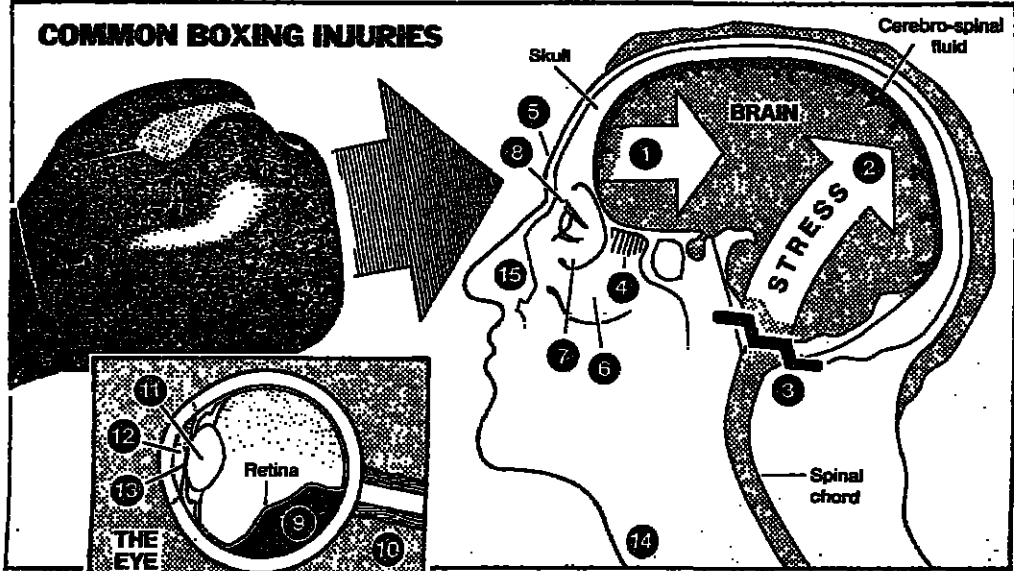
The National Trust for Scotland is the new owner of Ben Lomond, the 3,194ft Scottish mountain, after the approval yesterday by Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, of a special grant from the Countryside Commission for Scotland.

The grant allows the trust to purchase Blairdickie Farm, of 5.215 acres, which includes the summit and most of the mountain, from the Forestry Commission.

Operatic debut for cartoonist

Gerald Scarfe, the cartoonist, will make his debut as an opera designer for a new production of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, to be presented by the English National Opera at the London Coliseum on October 24.

Coliseum season, page 15



COMMON BOXING INJURIES

Brain: 1. Blow to head damages blood vessels and nervous tissue, causing blood and fluid to ooze. 2. Similar effect opposite impact site. 3. Savage blow causes skull through sudden neck displacement, tearing the medulla. Progressive deterioration can then follow. 4. Nerve leading to the nose damaged.

Face: 5. Cuts, particularly around eyebrows cause scar tissue, easily damaged again. 6. Eye socket bone and cheekbone can be fractured. Build-up of pressure causes 7. fracture under the eye. 8. Eyelids bruised and torn. 9. Detached retina. 10. Optic nerve damaged. 11. Displacement of lens, which can be knocked out of the eyeball. 12. Bleeding in anterior chamber in front of lens. 13. Iris ruptured and torn, shutter action impaired.

Other injuries: 14. Larynx damaged, with resulting husky voice. 15. Damage to nose bones, restricting air passages.

'Health risk' in end of glasses subsidy

By Tony Samstag

Government proposals to abolish the National Health Service subsidy for most spectacles could bring about an increase in eye diseases and put the health of the elderly at risk, opponents of the legislation said yesterday.

A number of professional bodies and pressure groups have organized a lobby of Parliament and issued statements deploring a clause in the Health and Social Security Bill which would limit the supply of NHS spectacles to children under 16 and people on very low incomes.

Sixty per cent of the population which needs glasses would be affected by the change, the British College of Ophthalmic Opticians (Optometrists) said. The result would be "to deter them from seeking a regular eye examination because of the cost implication; this could mean eye disease going undetected".

The most vulnerable would

Hormones 'double risk of strokes'

From Our Medical Correspondent
Tampa, Florida

Hormone replacement therapy for women after the menopause may not be as safe as is usually supposed and could increase the risk of suffering a stroke, a conference in Tampa, Florida, has been told.

Dr Peter Wilson, a leading American endocrinologist told the annual conference of the Cardio-Vascular Disease Epidemiology Association that in a study of 1,232 women between the ages of 50 and 83 those who had been prescribed oestrogen therapy faced double the risk of suffering a stroke.

He said: "According to our study it appears that it is the healthier women who are prescribed oestrogen and that only after they have taken it do they develop their risk of cardio-vascular disease."

Hormone replacement therapy is used more extensively in the United States than in Britain. In the United States between 15 and 20 per cent of post-menopausal women are prescribed oestrogen at one time or another.

Apart from relieving the symptoms of the menopause oestrogen is being prescribed to alleviate osteoporosis (thinning of the bones in older women).

Thief caught by bleep

Leslie Brown, aged 36, a North Sea gas rig engineer, was fined £500 yesterday for stealing a pocket-sized emergency transmitter from a gas rig off the Suffolk coast and ordered to pay £1,500 costs.

Brown, of Rashieburn, Erskine, near Glasgow, pleaded

not guilty at Ipswich Crown Court, Suffolk.

The court was told how he had stored the faulty transmitter on top of a wardrobe and when it began to bleep a distress signal a satellite relayed it to the RAF. After a large-scale, air-sea search the signal was tracked to Brown's home.

Curtain set to rise for Sunday theatre

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

London's theatres should be able to open on Sundays within the next two months. The Society of West End Theatre and the actors' union, Equity, have made a breakthrough in negotiations to end the union rule which bars most Sunday performances in the capital.

Theatre managements have dropped their insistence that actors should receive time off only for weekend working, and have offered Equity an unspecified overtime fee which the union is expected to accept.

Mr Bob Swash, the society's president, said yesterday that he hoped Sunday opening would be introduced by Easter,

and might prove attractive to a wide range of West End shows. The deal was pioneered by the producers of the musical, *Snoopy*, who are not members of the society. They won a one-off Sunday opening agreement in January.

Mr Swash said that the offer meant that existing London shows would be able to open for late afternoon performances on Sundays if all of the staff agreed to the idea. New shows would have the clause built into their agreement. In return for the Sunday show, performers would be paid overtime and given a night off during the week.

The offer represents a climbdown for theatrical managers, who had insisted previously that the only reward should be time off. Actors are not paid extra for Sunday working in television, films or radio, Mr Swash said.

In New York, where Sunday is one of the busiest days for theatre bookings, performers receive no extra payments.

Mr Swash, executive producer of *Erin*, said that he thought the breakthrough could prove attractive to a wide range of theatrical producers, particularly those involved in musicals.

Thanks to technology, retirement is going to be like a game of golf.
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PARLIAMENT March 8 1984

Lawson exudes a confident pre-Budget mood

THE ECONOMY

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Five days before he presents his first Budget, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared in the Commons that the economy was in a sounder and healthier position than it had been for many years past.

Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton, Lab) evoked Labour cheers when he asked how, in view of the rosy picture the Chancellor and other ministers were trying to paint about the economy and inflation, did Mr Lawson explain the total collapse of the Tory vote in the Chesterfield by-election.

Mr Lawson replied, to Conservative cheers: I am disappointed that the Opposition should be seeking every opportunity they can to decry a state of affairs in which inflation is low and coming down, output is at its highest level ever and still rising, living standards are the highest ever and rising and interest rates are low and tending down.

In question time exchanges Mr Lawson said he would in due course be publishing a green paper on the long-term prospects for public expenditure and retail price index.

Mr Nicholas Budge (Wolverhampton South West, C) told the Government set out its priorities for cutting public expenditure and its optimism in the face of growth not being achieved.

Mr Lawson: There is a great social problem of unemployment in many parts of this country which nobody on the Government side wishes to minimise. The Opposition will acknowledge the economy is recovering.

Mr Stephen Dorrell (Loughbo-

rough, C) in view of skilled labour shortages and manufacturing and other industries trying to recruit people and unable to find them with the right skills, will be in his long-term plans for public expenditure make certain that adequate provision is made to ensure a proper flow of skilled people on to the labour market?

Mr Lawson: He is on to a very good point. The Secretary of State for Employment (Mr Tom King) and his predecessors have done more for training than any previous Government. This was a matter on which we had worthwhile discussions in the National Economic Development Council only yesterday.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab): If the Government policy is related to economic growth and no real growth in public expenditure, what happens if the growth assumptions in the economy are not met? Does that mean there will be a fall in public expenditure?

Is it true the Prime Minister has issued instructions to each department that they should publish a budget of their own? Does that mean that these public expenditure cuts were to be introduced, to avoid embarrassment to the Government and yet another banana skin?

Mr Lawson: There is no such instruction. He is piling Hypothesis on hypothesis.

Over the 12 months to January, 1984, the retail price index increased by 5.1 per cent. Mr Lawson, the Chancellor said when asked to give the present rate of inflation.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C): That news will delight everybody. On top of all the other advantages, reducing inflation

Lamond: Why did Tory vote collapse?

will help unemployment more in the long run than almost any other measure the Government can take.

Mr Lawson: He is right. The reason why the 364 economists were wrong in 1981 is that they failed to realize that bringing down inflation, as we were succeeding in doing, would itself be a major contributory factor to the recovery that is now taking place.

A case might be made for having a Budget in mid-April rather than in mid-March. Mr Lawson, the Chancellor, said during other exchanges.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, L) had suggested a reversion to the mid-April date so that the Budget might be more accurately based. He said that the Chancellor had previously treated the public sector borrowing requirement as the centrepiece of his policy and that in the last two budgets there had been mistakes of £2,000m and £1,500m in the forecast in the PSBR output.

Mr Lawson said this was a good point. We seek (he said) to make the estimate as accurate as we can on the borrowing requirement for the year coming to an end when framing the Budget for the next year.

But he agreed a case might be made along the lines that Mr Wainwright suggested.

Mr Lawson said that he expected to publish an estimate of the public sector borrowing requirement output for 1983-84 on April 17.

Accord with views of Prince of Wales

CRIME

The views of the Prince of Wales about assaults by young people on the aged were warmly supported by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, and by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, during questions in the Commons.

Mr Kinnock's support was so warm that one Conservative MP shouted to him to "Come on Prince Charming", but there was some laughter from the Conservative side of the House when Mr Kinnock went on to say that support for the police was obviously essential and that view was strongly shared by Labour MPs.

Mr Kinnock said: I and countless others warmly support the views of the Prince of Wales both on the insecurity of the old and on criminal offences by a small proportion of the young.

I am glad to say (he added) that none of the crew was seriously hurt and I understand that most of them have now left Iran. It has been reported that Turkish and Indian ships, forming part of the same convoy were also hit.

The Charming, which formed part of a convoy under Iranian protection, was carrying a cargo of alumina ore and was reported to be substantially damaged and grounded outside Bandar Khomeini.

I am glad to say (he added) that none of the crew was seriously hurt and I understand that most of them have now left Iran. It has been reported that Turkish and Indian ships, forming part of the same convoy were also hit.

The Government deplore this incident and indeed all attacks on shipping in the Gulf area. We have summoned the Iraqi ambassador to protest at his Government's action and demand an explanation of it.

The Government remain deeply concerned to see an early end to the wasteful and destructive conflict which is continuing between Iraq and Iran. We are working vigorously with the international community to that end.

Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs (Hamilton): We are relieved that apparently there were no lives lost in this unwarranted attack on a British ship. We regret that apparently sailors on other ships in the incident were killed.

This incident highlights the dangers that exist in this region where one spark could well set the whole Middle East and beyond alight.

What British warships are there in the area? How close were they to this incident and what operating instructions do they have?

British protest at Iraqi air attack

GULF WAR

The Government has summoned the Iraqi ambassador in London to protest at the air attack on the British registered ship The Charming near the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini in the northern Gulf, Mr Richard Lawson, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement in the Commons.

The Government learnt on March 7 about the attack, he said. It took place on March 7 within Iranian territorial waters in the approaches to Bandar Khomeini.

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What British warships are there in the area? How close were they to this incident and what operating instructions do they have?

Mr Luce: There are two British warships in the area south of the Gulf and available if required.

Mr Peter Blaker (Blackpool South, C): There is already a UN resolution calling for a ceasefire and calling for freedom to navigate international waters. How can the UN be more effective?

Mr Luce: Resolution 540, which we supported, asked for a ceasefire in the Gulf area and calls for the freedom of navigation.

There have been repeated attempts over the years of mediation between Iraq and Iran. As yet there is no agreement among the two parties concerned that they wish to receive a representative of the Secretary General of the UN.



Luce: Government deplore this incident

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP (Plymouth, Devonport): It would be an act of grave folly for Britain to involve itself in so-called peace operations in the United States and the Straits of Hormuz without the very least having first gone through every possible avenue in the UN including the security council.

Mr Luce: I agree that all our effort and all our priorities must remain on the diplomatic side.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP): He hoped there would be no attempt by the Government to take part in yet another American fiasco in the Middle East this time in the Gulf.

Mr Luce said all Britain's efforts would be devoted with the international community to seeking a diplomatic solution.

Ominous whiff of very dubious practice

HEALTH SERVICE

Criticism of the Department of Health and Social Security for failing to monitor voluntary retirement schemes resulting from the reorganization of the National Health Service in 1982 was voiced in the Commons by Mr Peter Hain (Hornsea, C), a member of the Public Accounts Committee, which recently examined voluntary retirement schemes and the level of compensation paid out.

Mr Hain, opening a debate on the issue, said a reduction of 4,000 management posts by 1984-85 had been expected but the number of administrators and clerical staff had from going down, had actually risen by 1,000.

It is clear (he said) that the department had no basis from which to form an idea of how many retirements there would be. There were never any proper monitoring arrangements. In the view of the committee, the department was not at liberty to treat their responsibility, to their taxpayers as inadequately as they did in this case.

Mr Michael Meecher, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said that by any standards the PAC report was a damning indictment of administrative laxity and bungling within the Health Service and that the DHSS original estimate for England

of 435 taking premature retirement, the report showed the actual total to be 830 and the original estimate of the cost was £2.5m but it turned out to be around £54m.

This lucrative retirement scheme reveals (he said) there is one law for the rich and one for the poor even in the NHS.

The report showed that more than 100 of the officers prematurely retired subsequently found reemployment in the NHS. The committee said they had misgivings about it that must be the understatement of the year.

There is an ominous whiff, I would not say of corruption (he went on) but of very dubious practice. When someone who has received £20,000 for prematurely retiring and is then within a matter of months, reemployed within the same organization, that calls for some explanation.

This was a lamentable story of ministerial incompetence and civil service laxity. The House needed to know how a ministerial regime of such gross incompetence was ever allowed to prevail in DHSS and how this massive hijack of taxpayers' money by already well-heeled administrators would never be allowed to happen again.

Mr Michael Shaw (Scarborough, C) said a greater accountability discipline at a high level within the Civil Service and Government departments was most greatly needed.

Crime to withhold information

TERRORISM

The Government successfully resisted a Liberal attempt, on the report stage of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill, to remove a clause making it a criminal offence to withhold information about terrorist acts.

Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, hoped the clause would be retained. If a person knew that a bomb was going to be planted or an ambush laid and he told the police, the bombing and the murders could be prevented. If he did not tell the police - he might even put them off the scent - was that not an offence?

Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said he had considered in consultation with the

assistance in preventing the commission by another person of an act of terrorism committed a criminal offence if he, without reasonable excuse, did not inform the police of that information.

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Thatcher sees great future for coal industry

PM's QUESTIONS

There is a great future for the coal industry if investment is concentrated in the good pits and if the rest of the closure programme is carried out, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said.

Mr Timothy Britton (Gravesend, C) asked: Does she agree that there is a great future for the coal industry but that the taxpayer cannot forever go on paying for old and uneconomic pits through Government spending which this year will be more than £1,000m?

Would she also hope with me that the miners' trade unions will eventually understand that the best hope for jobs for their members lies in new and profitable developments of new coalfields and not in support of this dying or the dead?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. There is a great future for a productive, profitable and well-paid mining industry in this country.

The Plan For Coal and its revisions had three parts: first, Government investment into the industry, and that has been honoured. Since 1979 this Government, through the taxpayer, has put £2m a day investment into the coal mining industry.

The second part was increased productivity. That was due to go up by 4 per cent per annum 10 years ago but has only gone up by 4.7 per cent over the whole period. The third thing was the closure programme, which is behind.

If we concentrate on putting investment into the good pits and carry out the rest of the programme there is a good future for the industry.

Protection promised

Any in Britain who is threatened would expect to get maximum police protection, as good as it would be made, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in reply to a question about alleged threats to journalists employed by a Libyan news agency in London.

Mr Jonathan Sayeed (Bristol, East, C) had asked whether Mrs Thatcher had had time to study press reports that members of the National Union of Journalists in dispute with the Jamahiriya news agency in London had had their lives threatened by a member of the agency.

If the allegations are proved correct (he said), will she ask the Foreign Secretary to lodge the strongest protest with the Libyan Government?

Ms Thatcher: If what Mr Sayeed says is correct, perhaps he will take it up vigorously with the Foreign Secretary.

Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Tuesday: Budget statement.

Wednesday and Thursday: Continuation of debate on the Budget.

Friday: Private members' Bills. Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Bill; Law Reform (Husband and Wife) Bill; Third Reading. Times' Rights Bill (Scotland) Amendment Bill, second reading. Amusement Machines Bill, report. Wednesday: Debate on higher and further education.

Thursday: Debates on financing the EEC and on Hennessy report on the Maze Prison.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

The mysterious case of the Soviet submarines is causing ripples of nervous excitement among the normally placid, and may prove to be of wider international significance. In Britain there may be a tendency to assume that submarines that are occasionally sighted but never caught have rather too much in common with the Loch Ness Monster to be taken altogether seriously.

In Stockholm the position looks neither so comforting nor so simple.

It is not as if the latest reports of Soviet submarines in the archipelago around the naval base at Karlskrona in the south of Sweden were the only cause of anxiety. In 1981 there was a "Whiskey" on the "Racco" incident when the Soviet submarine Whiskey 137 ran aground again near Karlskrona.

Last year an official Swedish commission of unquestioned authority chronicled numerous other violations of Sweden's territorial waters by Soviet submarines, and there have been further indications that the activity has been continued since then.

At times like this there is often a tendency for the general public to react with exaggerated alarm, and for those who are better informed to take a more sanguine view. It is not quite like that in Sweden at the moment. There has, it is true, been no lack of excitement in Swedish newspapers.

Readers fed diet of drama

Some of them have fed their readers a diet of drama, unfounded hopes and occasional false reports. Time and again over the past week or so they have led their readers to expect that a submarine is about to be produced, or a frogman taken, and then nothing has happened.

This has not surprisingly had a bewildering effect upon most Swedes. It has both intensified public anxiety and brought to its train a growing of scepticism.

There has, according to opinion polls, been a massive increase in recent years in the number of Swedes who regard the Soviet Union as a hostile power. From 19 per cent in 1973 to 80 per cent last autumn, but there seems to be an element of fantasy about submarines that are supposed to be trapped yet cannot be captured. One moment they are there, the next - where are they?

This is embarrassing for the Navy, which has become the target of increasing ridicule. It is in danger of looking decidedly foolish if it cannot provide much firmer evidence of what has been happening around Karlskrona.

But those who are best informed - not only those in official positions - are more sympathetic to the Navy's difficulties and more worried about the submarine activity. They appreciate the problems of searching for small submarines in the treacherous waters of the archipelago, and point out that no other navy has managed to force a submarine to the surface against its will and they acknowledge that the Swedish Navy has not been fully equipped for the task. It is short of the necessary vessels and above all of trained personnel.

These missions are gradually being made good, and it is claimed that the Navy will be better prepared this summer and better still in 1985. The difficulty is that Sweden cannot afford to wait that long to know what has been going on.

Public pressure for some definite information has become intense. There has been an accumulation of evidence that stops short of truth. Either that there are submarines there, or that if there are, that they are Soviet ones.

But that is the assumption of most well-informed Swedes. The evidence is based not just upon the vision of excited fishermen. There have been almost a dozen serious indications on instruments which have not yet been formally presented to the Government. "If you listen to the military people explaining this," one knowledgeable person remarked to me, "you cannot help saying to yourself there must be something." There are some whom I have known well for a dozen years and more who are more worried than I have known them. This is not some kind of obscure Nordic joke in the baffling waters of the Baltic.

New speed limits for coaches

TRANSPORT

New speed limits for buses, coaches and lorries on dual carriageways were approved by the Commons late on Wednesday night by 171 votes to 69 - government majority, 102.

The Motor Vehicles (Variation of Speed Limits) Regulations raise the speed limit on dual carriageways for buses and coaches from 50 to 60 mph and for lorries under 7.5 tonnes from 40 to 50 mph to 60 mph. They also bring in new technical standards to cover the fitting of more effective mudguards and absorbent material to reduce the spray from lorries.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said the new limits needed to be realistic, if not the majority of drivers tended to break them and this made enforcement impractical. It brought the law into line with reality.

Mr Robert Ashley (Christchurch, C) said he was against the regulations as he could not believe that higher speed limits would be safer.

If the 50 mph speed limit was being abused with impunity (he said) what on earth made Mr Ridley believe that a 60 mph limit would be easier to enforce? I believe the percentage of those breaking the speed limit will continue.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) said these changes went against safety and were dangerous. He would like to see more effort to enforce the existing limits.

Let us have a real crackdown (he said) on speeding coaches. Otherwise there is going to be the most almighty tragedy one bank holiday and not only three or four people killed, but one day an MP is going to be here demanding why a whole coach was killed.

Mr Ridley said everyone knew coaches had been speeding excessively. It was a wrong connexion to say that in some way a modest increase in speed limits was going to increase the speeds at which vehicles travelled.

Correction

Lord McNair, who spoke in yesterday's debate in the House of Lords on barriers to women at work and at home is a Liberal peer, not (C) as printed.

Long-term policies offer the best prospects

UNEMPLOYMENT

Britain was enjoying a combination of steady growth and low inflation not seen since the 1960s, said the Secretary of State for the Treasury, said during Commons questions. He added that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Community had singled out the UK as the country most likely in the EEC to grow over this current year.

Mr Jack Drommond (Easington, Lab) said any definition of the progress in the economy must include the level of unemployment. The level of unemployment and the development of manufacturing and industry.

As the Government has significantly failed over five years on these three issues, (he said), and as there were no signs of improvement, he asked, why does not the Chancellor swallow his pride and embark on fundamentally new policies?

Mr Rees: Mr Lawson and I are satisfied that the long-term policies of this Government offer the best prospect for Britain. If one adopted at least one of his criteria as the touchstone of success or failure, he should recall that unemployment doubled under the Labour Government.

Mr Terry Davis, an Opposition spokesman on economic affairs, asked if Mr Rees was really satisfied with economic progress when the underlying level of unemployment showed an increase of more than 50,000 people in two months.

Mr Rees: One is never complacent about the underlying position of the economy. As an earnest of our concern the Government is spending between £2 billion and £3 billion on training and job creation measures.

Hopes rise for cut in mortgage rate

HOUSING

There were hopeful signs of a cut in the mortgage rate, Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, told the Commons during questions.

The building societies were meeting on March 16, he said, after the Budget, to consider a decision. He was sure that if they decided on a reduction, it would be welcomed by all with mortgages.

He was asked by Mr Richard Ottaway (Nottingham North, C) to estimate the annual saving to Treasury if the building societies

leading rate was dropped by 1 per cent a year.

Mr Stewart: A reduction in the interest rate would reduce the cost of a mortgage for mortgage interest by approximately £18m. But this would be offset by the reduced tax yield from interest paid to investors if deposit rates were also lowered.

Mr Kenneth Weetich (Ipswich, Lab): If the lending rate falls by 1 per cent there is going to be an immediate effect on the investment rate.

Does he not agree that the composite tax arrangements of the building societies are most inequitable to people on low incomes or who pay no tax? If he extends this composite system to the banks, he

would compound that inequity.

If the only alternative to gross payments of interest that he leaves open are national savings would he not agree this is political sharp practice?

Mr Stewart: The building societies composite rate has been in place for many years and many taxpayers and non-taxpayers have deposited with societies during that period.

Mr Ian Stewart (Stockton South, SDP): Does he not accept that the recent announcement on the tax treatment of the gilt-edged stock of the building societies might have delayed a decrease in the lending rate to mortgage holders?

Mr Stewart: He is mistaken.

Nilsen home sells for £50,000

The three-storey house at 23, Cranley Gardens, Musell Hill, north London, where Denis Nilsen murdered at least three of his victims, has been sold for £50,000 to a property developer.

It will be converted into three or four flats, an estate agent announced yesterday. The purchaser wishes to remain anonymous.

The price fell before purchase because of the property's deterioration.

Nilsen was sentenced to at least 25 years' imprisonment after he was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court of six murders and two attempted murders.

£1m greenhouse

A £1m scheme to build a giant greenhouse at Ebury, Stoke-on-Trent, with 6,000 square meters of computer-controlled growing space and an annual capacity of 600,000 bedding plants, has been approved by the city's parks department.



Top teacher: The leader of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Michel Schwalbe, coaching young string players yesterday at the Yehudi Menuhin School in Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey. They will be taking part in master-classes he is holding next Tuesday and Wednesday at the Parcell Room on London's South Bank.

The classes, which are open to the public

and begin at 2.30 pm, have been organized by the National Centre for Orchestral Studies, based at Goldsmiths' College, University of London. The centre forms a symphony orchestra every year from about 70 young music graduates, to prepare them for professional careers.

(Photograph: John Manning).

Lake woman 'had been strangled'

Mrs Margaret Hogg, aged 37, whose body was found in Westwater in the Lake District, died from manual strangulation, an inquest in Whitehaven, Cumbria, was told yesterday.

The deputy West Cumbria coroner, John Taylor, was told that Mrs Hogg, who disappeared from her home in Mead Road, Cranley, Surrey, in 1976 was identified through dental records. He adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed.

Dr Cyril Woodcock, a Home Office pathologist said he made a post-mortem examination of the body which was found in 100R of water.

He said: "The cause of death was by manual strangulation."

After the post-mortem examination the jaw and dentures were shown to a dentist who drew up a dental chart.

Det Chief Inspector Stephen Reed said that a dentist at Leithworth, Hertfordshire, had confirmed that the chart matched dental work carried out on Mrs Hogg, who had two children. Her husband, Peter, aged 56, an airline pilot, has been charged with the murder.

Planes collide

50 من الأصل

Howe to visit Israel after Jewish criticism of his support for Arabs

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is due to make his first official visit to Israel later this year, probably in the early summer. Preliminary diplomatic contacts have taken place.

The visit will be the first by the British foreign secretary since Lord Carrington made his ill-fated mission to Jerusalem on the eve of the Falklands war in the spring of 1982. Because of the delicate state of the deadlock Middle East peace process, it will pose a severe test to Sir Geoffrey's diplomatic skills.

Sir Geoffrey has been under strong pressure from the Jewish lobby in Britain to visit Israel since his five-day fact-finding trip in January to Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. On March 26, he will accompany the Queen on her first official visit to Jordan, a royal tour that has already provoked criticism in Israel.

Diplomats here have speculated that the Foreign Office in London is making arrangements to speed up Sir Geoffrey's trip here to defuse criticism among leaders of British Jewry about the Queen's tour, which has also provoked controversy because of the dangers arising from possible terrorist incidents.

Last December, the Jewish Board of Deputies questioned the advisability of the visit. It said she should also visit Israel. Mr Greville Janner, the board's president, was later told in a letter that there were "no plans for Her Majesty to visit other countries in the region at present".

A month later, Sir Geoffrey angered British Jews and Israeli officials by calling on Riyadh, for radical changes in Israel's policy, including flexibility regarding Palestinian aspirations. The Board accused him of berating Israel without being

prepared to listen, and of "uncharacteristic malice" on his part.

The Foreign Office is suspected by Israel's ruling Likud party of being "soft" on the position of Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. This suspicion will be deepened if, as expected, Sir Geoffrey gives his endorsement to the recent reconciliation between Mr Arafat and King Hussein.

The pitfalls facing British ministers visiting Israel were demonstrated last November during the three-day trip by Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office. Mr Luce was prevented by the Israeli authorities from meeting two senior deposed mayors from the occupied West Bank. British diplomats claimed that similar restrictions had not been imposed on other EEC ministers attempting to test Palestinian opinion. Lebanon guide, page 10

Assad appoints brother as deputy

Damascus (Reuters) - Syria has decided to appoint three vice-presidents, one of them President's Assad's younger brother, to ease the President's workload, according to diplomatic sources here.

Mr Rifaat al-Assad, whose powerful Defence Companies are the equivalent of a kind of

praetorian guard, would be Vice-President in charge of defence and security. Mr Abdul-Halim Khaddam, the veteran Foreign Minister, would become Vice-President in charge of political and foreign affairs. The assistant regional secretary of the ruling Arab Socialist Baath Party, Mr

Zuheir Marharqa, would be Vice-President in charge of party affairs, the sources said. It would be the first government post for both the President's brother and Mr Marharqa. President Assad, who has ruled Syria for 13 years, spent more than two months in hospital last year.

Saudis free British executive from jail

By Richard Dowden

Mr Keith Carmichael, the British businessman held in Saudi Arabian jails since October 1981 and allegedly tortured, has been released.

The Foreign Office, criticized several times for its handling of the case, confirmed Mr Carmichael's release and said it reflected intensive efforts on his behalf.

His case was last raised by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, during the visit by Crown Prince Abdullah last month.

Mr Carmichael, aged 50, was arrested trying to cross the border into Qatar after he had allegedly run up debts. He was never formally charged. In messages smuggled out of prison he said he was being held in solitary confinement, that he was starved and the soles of his feet were beaten with canes.

While being taken to hospital from Al Aoud prison in August 1982, his spine was broken. A report last year said he would suffer for the rest of his life from the injury.

It took the British consul 75 days to get to visit Mr Carmichael and more than a year to arrange for a British doctor to see him.

His case was taken up by Amnesty International. Opposition MPs criticized the apparent ineffectiveness of the Foreign Office in getting him released.

Last July, Mr Carmichael announced he was going on hunger strike. A Briton who visited him in prison in September said he was physically in a bad way.

Under Saudi law, debtors can be held in jail indefinitely until the debt is paid or waived. Mr Carmichael denied that he owes anything.

There are about 20 other Britons in prison in Saudi Arabia, mostly for alcohol offences.

Mystery of unnamed prisoners

By Our Foreign Staff

Three more names of Britons seized by the Unita guerrilla group in northern Angola two weeks ago have been discovered by *The Times* but it is still a mystery why the names of the other hostages have not been released.

Mr Graham Popplewell, aged 28, of Southampton, his Portuguese-born wife, Vera, also 28, and Mr Ian Smythe of London were among the 17 British mineworkers abducted by the rebels on February 23 at Cafunfu.

Fifty-eight other expatriate mineworkers including a woman and a child were seized at the same time.

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that the company involved, Mining and Technical Services Ltd, had asked that their names should not be released.

A spokesman for the company said the families of the hostages had asked that the names should not be released but yesterday Mr David Popplewell, Graham's father, said that he had not been consulted. "It's no bother to us whether the names are released or not."

Planes collide

Emmen, Switzerland (AP) - Two Swiss military jets collided in bad weather and crashed but both pilots bailed out in time and neither was injured.

Mandela likely to stay in jail

Johannesburg - Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned African National Congress leader, yesterday visited her husband in jail near Cape Town, where he is serving a life term, and informed him of the Government's offer of a conditional release (Michael Hornsby writes).

The offer, never officially confirmed, was conveyed last month via Chief Kaiser Matanzima of the "independent" Transkei tribal homeland. Mr Mandela would have to agree to live in Transkei after his release and family friends said it was virtually certain he would refuse.

Spy sentences increased

Helsinki (Reuters) - A Finnish reporter said to have spied for the Soviet Union had his sentence increased by the Supreme Court yesterday for passing on information that could damage Finland's international relations.

Matti Dumell, aged 32, was ordered to serve an eight-month jail sentence suspended by a lower court. Two others also had their sentences increased when their appeals on spy charges failed.

Mr and Mrs

Hollywood - Vanessa Redgrave may play both male and female roles in life story of Dr Renée Richards, the transsexual eye surgeon who became a top woman tennis professional in America. "Vanessa would play Renée as a man and then a woman", says Linda Yellin who hopes to produce the film for television.

Freedom day

Montevideo (Reuters) - Uruguay's military Government is to free the former left-wing presidential candidate, Señor Liber Seregni, one of Latin America's best known political prisoners, after holding him for eight years. He is expected to be released today.

Refinery fire

Delhi (Reuters) - An explosion at one of India's main oil refineries in Kerala state killed at least one person and started a serious fire. At least eight others were hurt and thousands were evacuated from their homes.

Yola inquiry

Lagos (AFP) - A tribunal is being set up to investigate last week's religious riots, which officially killed 536 people in Yola, capital of Nigeria's north-eastern Gongola state. The violence was caused by a renegade Muslim sect.

Finns walk out

Helsinki (Reuters) - About 100,000 office and technical workers, 4 per cent of Finland's work force, staged a one-day walkout after rejecting a settlement which averted a general strike.

Oldest prisoner

New York (AP) - A man who says he is 96 and has a criminal record dating back to 1929 has been sentenced to six months in jail for trying to swindle at least seven women. He is believed to be New York's oldest prisoner ever.



Civic armour: M Charles Scaglia, the new mayor of the French Riviera town of La Seyne sur Mer, wearing a riot-police helmet at City Hall as supporters of his predecessor, the Communist M Maurice Blanc, rioted outside, claiming that the election was invalid.

Polish boy died after beating

Police accused of cover-up

By Patricia Clough

Alleged attempts by Polish police to prevent justice being done after the fatal beating of a Warsaw schoolboy are described in a letter by Poland's leading human rights lawyer which has come into the possession of *The Times*.

The open letter, addressed to the Polish leader, General Jaruzelski, by Mr Wladyslaw Sila-Nowicki, also gives details of pressure being put by police on another opposition lawyer, Mr Maciej Bednarkiewicz, who took up the schoolboy's case and has been arrested. He further accuses the police of failing to prosecute a gang which attacked a Warsaw convent in May last year, although he says they undoubtedly knew the culprits' identity.

"All this... is the result of dangerous anarchy in the Government," he writes. "It shows that articles of the criminal code can be disre-

garded without ceremony in the face of day-to-day political needs and considerations."

There was a danger "of creating hostility and indeed hatred among the population to the police apparatus as a whole".

The letter brought sharp attacks in the Government-controlled press, which accused Mr Sila-Nowicki of lying and slandering the legal authorities to stir up political emotions.

The police, Mr Sila-Nowicki wrote, "set a whole process in motion to foil investigations into the death of Grzegorz Przemyski, aged 19, who died in May last year as a result of internal injuries after allegedly being beaten in the police station in Jesuit Street, Warsaw."

"It started with preventing access to the dead boy's mother and including several methods of pressure on witnesses - threats, attempts at intimi-

dation, 'unknown people' seizing children from school - to frighten those involved in this matter."

The press spokesman of the police command in Warsaw falsely declared the boy was never in the Jesuit Street station, contrary to statements by an eyewitness reporter and three groups of "experts at the highest level".

Attempts were made to put the blame on two ambulance workers before charges were finally laid against two policemen, two ambulance workers and two doctors. The police, however, were arrested for "beating where no physical damage was caused", a charge which brought a maximum of three years in jail.

And then came the "miracle" of the court hearing: after his arrest, one of the health workers admitted dealing the boy a fatal blow.

Pupils strike in battle of the cross

From Our Correspondent, Warsaw

The Polish authorities have indefinitely suspended classes at an agricultural training school near Garwolin, 40 miles south-east of Warsaw after a sit-in strike by several hundred students in protest against the removal of crucifixes from their classrooms.

On Wednesday, about two-thirds of the 600 students of the Stanislaw Staszic school staged a sit-in in the corridors for 14 hours in protest against the edict issued last December by

the school administrators ordering the removal of crucifixes from classrooms.

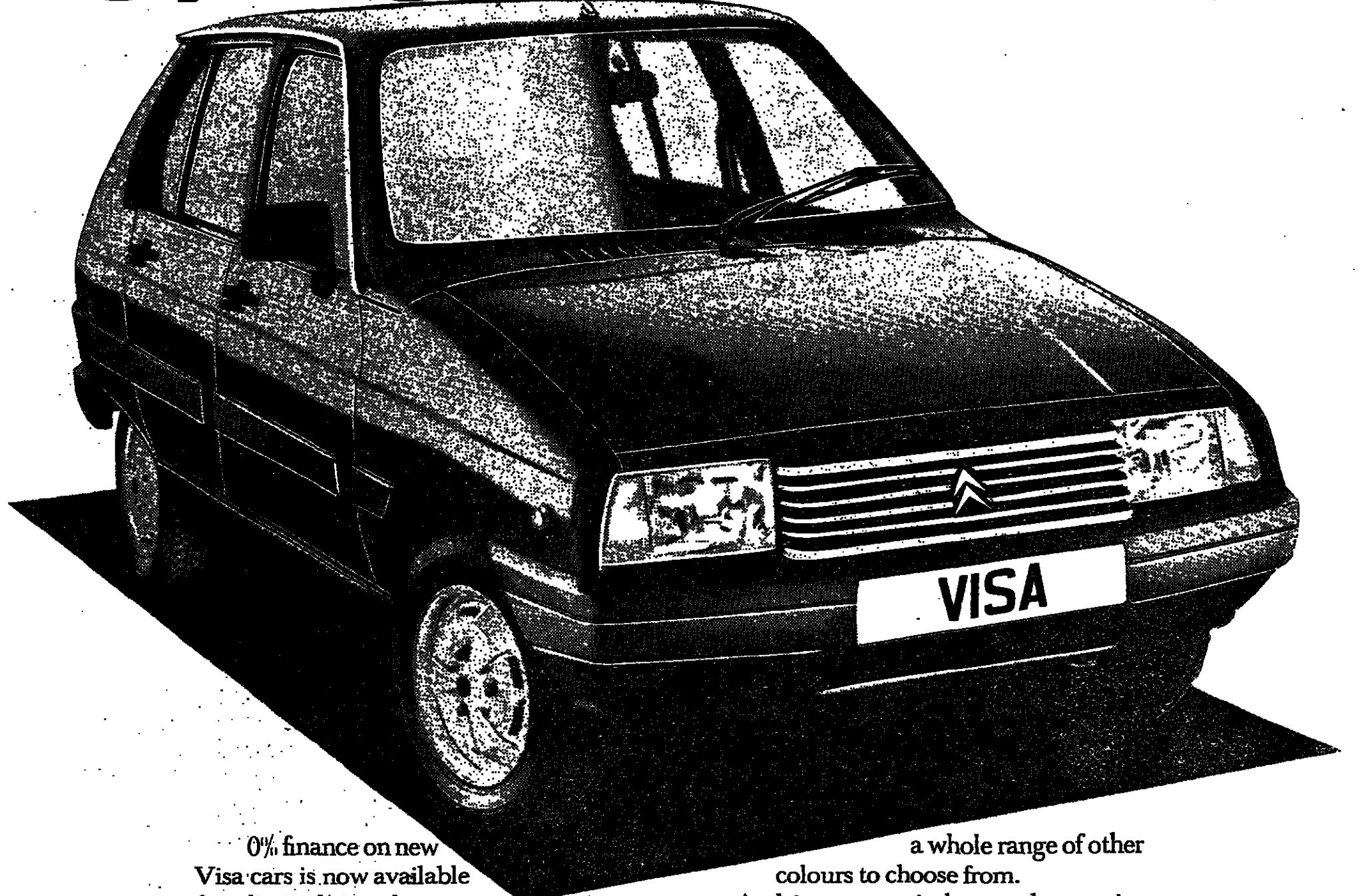
They ended their sit-in only after police surrounded the school building and threatened to evict them by force. When the teenagers tried to stage a peaceful, late night march to a church in the centre of Garwolin, they were turned back by a column of Zomo riot police blocking the road.

The latest "battle of the Cross" has put the communist

authorities at odds with the devoutly Catholic population of this rural town of 15,000. Students from two other local secondary schools boycotted classes yesterday to attend a Mass in support of the protest.

Hundreds of students, some of them wearing large wooden crucifixes under their coats, and their parents filled the Church of the Reconciliation to hear the local priest, Father Stanislaw Binko, denounce the police action.

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Botha and Machel agree to sign historic pact of non-aggression

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa and Mozambique will sign a pact of "non-aggression and good neighbourliness" at a summit meeting between Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister, and President Samora Machel of Mozambique, next Friday, it was announced here yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting will take place on the border between South Africa and Mozambique close to the frontier towns of Komatipoort and Ressano Garcia. The agreement, the culmination of several months' negotiation, will be known as the "Accord of Nkomati" after the name of a river that flows nearby.

The essential features of the agreement were worked out at meetings in Maputo and Cape Town on February 20 and

anti-government insurgency in Mozambique known as Renamo. It will be Mr Botha's first meeting as prime minister with a black African leader other than President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia.

Next Friday's meeting with President Machel, the head of the militant Marxist-Leninist government, appears to herald a general abandonment by the black states of the region of a policy of ostracizing Pretoria for one of accommodation.

In the case of both Mozambique and Angola, which is also engaged in peace talks with South Africa, economic necessity and fears of Pretoria's military strength seem to be the main factors which have brought once very hostile governments to the negotiating table.

Security forces strike in Uganda

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Ugandan security forces have been carrying out widespread sweeps in the Bunyoro area, 150 miles north of Kampala, after the guerrilla attack on army and police barracks in the town of Masindi last month.

Thousands of civilians have been rounded up in Masindi and Hoima, and in surrounding villages, for interrogation about possible links with anti-government

ment guerrillas who carried out the attack.

Local sources say several people were shot dead in the roundups, but it has not been possible to confirm reports that prominent personalities were among those killed.

The Uganda Government organized a series of rallies and meetings in the Bunyoro area, warning the people there not to

support the guerrillas, and calling for information on guerrilla activities.

The National Resistance Army, the main guerrilla group, says its fighters carried out the Masindi raid, occupying the town for several hours and capturing quantities of arms and ammunition from the barracks. The NRA has since carried out other attacks

Murder of famous film producer baffles Paris

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Mystery continues to surround the death of Gerard Lebovici, one of France's foremost film producers, whose body was found on Wednesday, with four bullet wounds in the back of his head, in an underground parking lot in the Avenue Foch in Paris.

M Lebovici, who was 51, was also known as a great impresario, and until 1981 ran the Artmedia casting agency, which was associated with many of the best-known names in the French film industry, including Jean-Paul Belmondo, Gerard Depardieu, Catherine Deneuve, and Jeanne Moreau.

But despite the glamorous "showbiz" side of his life, he remained a reserved, secretive man, who hated the limelight, was hardly ever photographed in public and almost never gave interviews. "Cham Libre", a small publishing house dealing in off-beat marginal books, which he ran with his wife, was known for its total lack of any press service.

It was Cham Libre that published the autobiography by Jacques Mesrine, one of France's most notorious mass murderers, who was shot dead by the police in 1979. A new edition of the book, entitled *The Death Instinct*, had just been brought out to coincide with the opening in Paris last month of a controversial, semi-documentary film on Mesrine's life.

Mystery murder: M Lebovici with Catherine Deneuve during the presentation of the Cesar award in 1982.

At present, however, the police are discounting suggestions of any link between M Lebovici's death and the Mesrine affair, despite reports that he may have been responsible for the telephone call to M Lebovici on Monday evening shortly before he left his office off the Avenue Kleber at 6.35 p.m., never to be seen alive again.

Mondale confronts Jackson factor in Carter country

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Georgia's past is a brew of slavery, cotton, the Ku Klux Klan, Coca Cola, peanuts, peaches, cattle, hogs, *Gone with the Wind*, and Mr Jimmy Carter.

It is arguable which has been the most influential. It is routine to talk of Mr Carter's "bible presidency" but in Georgia they remember his grand gesture for Southern history in 1970 - the day he ostentatiously hung Martin Luther King's picture in the state capitol.

Until then, Georgia politics turned almost entirely on one overwhelming issue, race. Mr Carter heralded the new Georgia, the beginnings of which can be traced to the heartfelt cry of Governor Ellis Arnall 30 years ago: "Let's get off Tobacco Road."

Many of the instincts of old Georgia are today preserved by the rural hegemony, the "ruling rustics" as they were contemptuously called. Mr Carter sprang from that stock but abandoned them at precisely the right moment. He still has not been totally forgiven.

Atlanta is the capital of the South, a beautiful and prosperous centre of commerce and communications in bewildering contrast to most of its grimy Southern sisters. It is the jewel of the new Georgia. It is also the centre of Mr Carter's political network, which is working solidly for Mr Walter Mondale in the Georgia Democratic presidential primary next Tuesday.

Mr Carter's support is no guarantee of success but it does give Mr Mondale an entrée into rural Georgia, where liberal tendencies would normally wilt in the heat of the landowners' ultra-conservatism.

It will be the first truly contested Georgia Democratic primary in modern times - those of 1976 and 1980 were a theatre for the native son, when on both occasions he took more than 80 per cent of the vote.

It was so worn up in 1980 that only 385,000 people voted - about half the expected turnout next Tuesday. There is a sense of relief at the demise of

Salvador pledge that dead will not vote

From John Carlin, San Salvador

"This time the dead won't vote," says the man organizing this month's elections in El Salvador. "In the elections two years ago dead people not only voted once, but sometimes twice."

Dr Armando Rodriguez, a lawyer and head of the five-man Central Elections Council organizing the presidential elections, due on March 25, is convinced there was widespread fraud in the elections for a constituent assembly. Equally he is convinced the new elections will be clean.

Last time people would vote, go back home, get the identity card of a dead friend or relative, change the photograph to their own, and go and vote again," says Dr Rodriguez, who estimates that more than 25 per cent of the 1.55 million votes cast in 1982 were fraudulent.

British and other foreign observers at the 1982 elections nevertheless left El Salvador satisfied that voting had been conducted correctly.

Dr Rodriguez, a member of the right-wing National Conciliation Party, says that the observers were able to witness "the most important thing about the '82 elections, namely

the massive voter turn-out, with the implications that carried that the guerrillas do not have popular support for their revolution." But the observers could not perceive every detail of the elections.

Dr Rodriguez believes double voting by the living, as well as the "living dead", as he puts it, accounted for a large part of the fraud.

Señor Barrera, vice-president of the extreme right Arena Party has accused his Christian Democrat rivals, for example, of sending more than 20 government lorries full of peasants on a tour of six towns in western Salvador to vote in each one.

"Often there were three times the number of votes in a ballot box than there were people in a town," Dr Rodriguez said.

"Four out of the five men on the CCE, each representing a different political party, are convinced that the fraud took place. Only the Christian Democrat representative disagreed with the charges levelled by the others, who maintain that the Christian Democrat Party, the biggest single vote winner in the elections, was the one which benefited most."

Trawler shooting jolts Franco-Spanish links

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The incident in which nine Basques and Portuguese were injured when two Spanish boats, fishing illegally, were fired at on Wednesday by a French naval vessel, has badly jolted Franco-Spanish relations which had been slowly improving.

M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, today begins a visit to Madrid. However, Señor Alfonso Guerra, Spain's Deputy Prime Minister, said in Paris yesterday that if a "sufficiently clear" explanation of the incident was not forthcoming, relations could enter a "very difficult confrontation".

The Spanish Government - under opposition pressure - is showing anger, but it is a delicate time for Madrid. The worst incident with France in a long conflict as Spain's fishing fleets adapt reluctantly to Community rules comes just as Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, wanted nothing to upset relations with Paris over the much-desired start to EEC entry negotiations.

Now the atmosphere had been poisoned with another disruption, on top of Madrid's concern about Basque terrorists sheltering in France.

M Pierre Guindon, the French Ambassador, told reporters that the French naval vessel was carrying out standing orders to enforce EEC fishing regulations when faced by Spanish boats which had repeatedly fished illegally and had, in this case, not obeyed when ordered to stop.

Señor Guerra: Fears of a confrontation

Spain does not dispute that the two boats from the Basque port of Ondarroa were caught in Community waters without licences. But the customary procedure is for seizure, confiscation of equipment and heavy fines for the Spanish skippers. There was, however, a shooting incident with the French in 1981.

Two fishermen who received serious leg wounds in Wednesday's incident were yesterday out of danger after being operated on in Bristol. They were from the trawler Achondo, on which all the injured were sailing.

As the vessel, damaged in the shooting, was escorted into Lorient, the French authorities said the injuries were due to shrapnel from cannon fire, not machine guns, as the Spaniards have maintained.

The Achondo's crew were accused by the French of first trying to flee and then attempting to board the naval vessel.

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The experts seem to think the

chips are stacked in favour of Goliath, and Trilogy's share price has halved since going public in 1983.

Some even believe that Trilogy is very much a 'high-risk' operation.

Mr. Amdahl, however, remains confident that his state-of-the-art design will prove irresistible.

He expects his computer to think four times as fast as IBM's current computer and to undercut its next model by 40%.

In a recent article, The Economist looked at his computer (and his chances) in depth and in detail.

It was an article you should have read. You'd have found it in our 'World Business' section along with the latest news on maritime fraud and a report on some brilliant matchmaking by Rolls-Royce in America.

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What Mr. Amdahl does in Cupertino, California can affect a Christmas bonus in Croydon or Carlisle.

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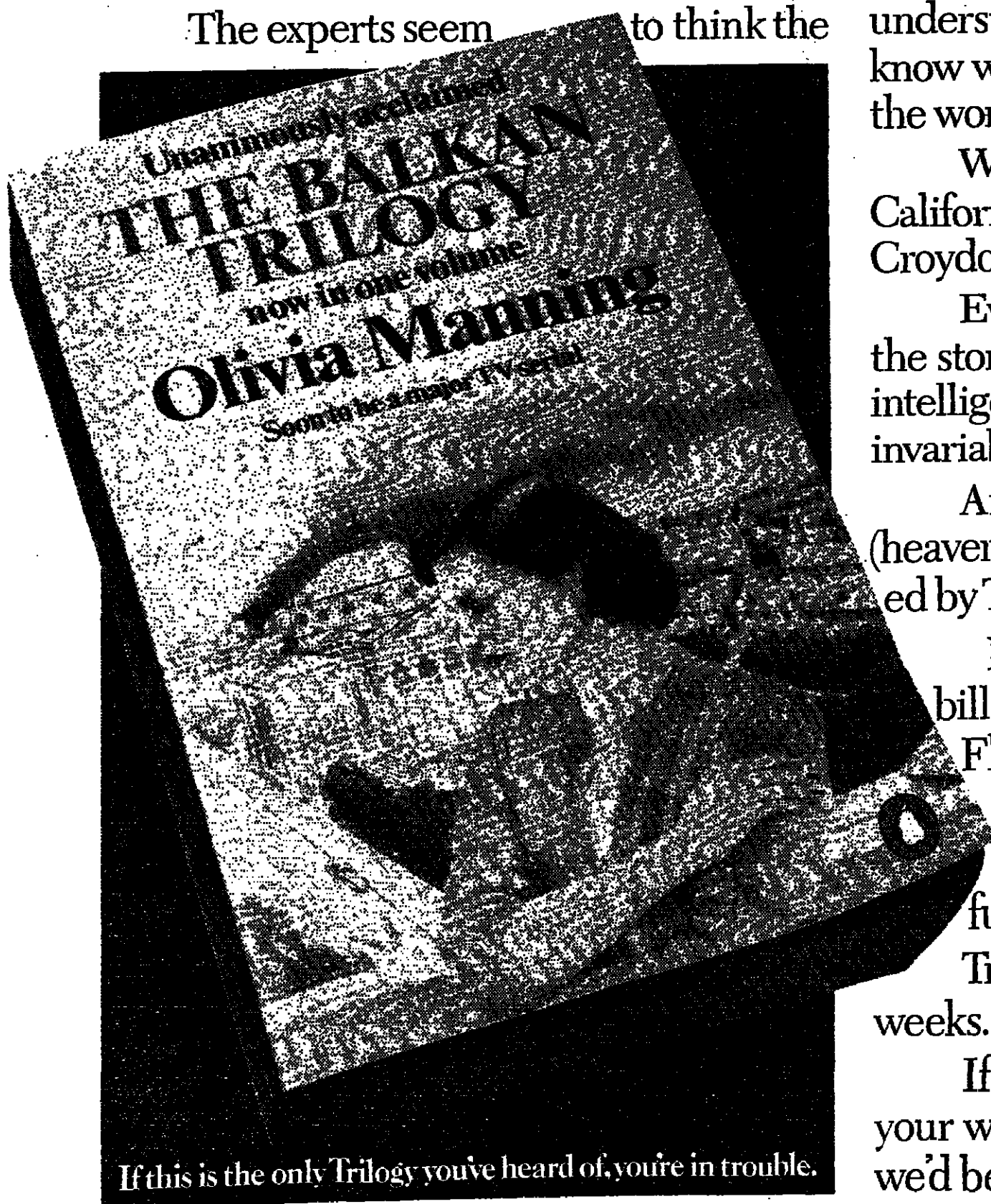
Mr. Amdahl, for instance, shared his billing with Jean-Luc Godard, Alexander Fleming and the Theatre of Comedy.

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If this is the only Trilogy you've heard of, you're in trouble.

Nicaragua moves tanks and artillery to border with Honduras

From Alan Tomlinson, Jalapa, Nicaragua

Relations between Nicaragua and Honduras are deteriorating rapidly and tensions along their 500-mile border are growing.

Nicaragua has followed up complaints of increasing Honduran involvement in attacks by US-backed counter-revolutionaries by moving its Russian-built T-55 tanks to the frontier. At least seven are deployed in the mountains of Nueva Segovia province between Ocotal and Jalapa facing an area of Honduras where thousands of Contras are encamped.

The tanks are supported by 57mm artillery pieces and 120mm lorry-drawn mortars. A fresh battalion of regular soldiers and companies of

reservists and militia have also been moved up.

Far from responding to Nicaragua's accusations in a conciliatory manner, the Honduran Government has chosen this moment to expel the Nicaraguan Chargé d'Affaires, Señor Javier Adiles Ibarra, from Tegucigalpa.

He is accused of turning the embassy into a centre for the dissemination of Marxist propaganda, acting undiplomatically by making public accusations against Honduran officials and of being too strident in his criticisms of the strong American military presence in Honduras.

Relations between the two

countries have shown increasing strains since 3,000 US troops began to arrive last August for joint exercises with the Honduran Army. They deteriorated sharply with the recent mining of Nicaraguan ports by the contras (right-wing Nicaraguan rebels), air attacks on patrol boats in the Gulf of Fonseca which killed three sailors and the deaths of seven young soldiers and a baby girl in the latest frontier clashes.

The Foreign Minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto has warned of the risk of an international incident of serious proportions unless the Hondurans desist and begin to disarm the estimated 10,000 contras camped in their territory.



Refugee anger: Afghan refugees in Delhi yesterday marking the visit to India of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, with the demands for Moscow to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Aquino version refuted again

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A Philippine security guard yesterday told an inquiry that, after hearing a shot, he saw two soldiers coming down the steps from an airliner, holding the body of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader.

The testimony of Mr Efren Ranas from a five-man commission of inquiry into Aquino's death last August, differs greatly from the military version of the killing.

The military claim the

Rolando Galman, an alleged communist agent and hired assassin, penetrated a cordon and killed Aquino with a single shot to the back of the head as he was being escorted across the tarmac to a waiting military van. Galman was then shot dead.

Aquino returned on August 21 after three years' self-exile in the United States. He was killed moments after his China Airlines plane landed at Manila airport.

Mr Ranas said he was 45ft from the aircraft's side boarding steps, down which, Aquino was brought, when he heard a shot.

"I tried to check where the shot came from. Then I saw three men coming down the stairway, the man in white (Aquino), then two men on both sides holding him. The head of the man in white was bent towards the ground. I ran away and as I ran I heard more shots."

How the good life causes cancer

From Baily Morris, Washington

Now that Lent is upon us, the United States Government has taken the unprecedented step of endorsing an anti-cancer diet designed to convince Americans to give up all year long what most of them regard as life's small pleasures.

Cigarettes, free-flowing wine, thick, juicy steaks, fish and

chips and prolonged sunbathing are all on the forbidden list.

What the Government has endorsed, and will soon promote in a nearly \$1m (almost £700,000) television advertising campaign this summer, is a new living and dietary regime, encouraging consumption of

great quantities of fibre in the form of bran or whole-grain foods, grilled fish and skinless poultry.

In announcing the new anti-cancer campaign, Mrs Margaret Heckler, Secretary of Health and Human Services, said the dietary, non-smoking regime could save 95,000 lives a year

and reduce death from cancer by 25 per cent in the year 2000.

Unfortunately, according to a new government poll, 49 per cent of the US population is unaware of what to do to prevent cancer and another 46 per cent believes there is nothing that can be done.

Third poll in four years for Anguilla

The Valley, Anguilla (Reuters) - The tiny British Caribbean colony of Anguilla goes to the polls today for the third time in four years, two years ahead of schedule.

Mr Ronald Webster, the controversial Chief Minister who has dominated the politics of the island for two decades, told reporters that he was looking for a vote of confidence to complete his main projects - among them an airport and a deepwater harbour - before considering retirement.

Independence is not an issue at this election. Mr Webster says he does not expect the 7,000 Anguillians to consider independence for 30 to 40 years. Strengthening the shaky economy, dependent traditionally on tourism and fishing, is a higher priority.

Both he and the opposition leader, Mr Emile Gumbs, point to economic problems suffered by former British colonies, such as Grenada, Dominica and Antigua.

Mr Gumbs has criticized the Chief Minister's decision to call the election two years ahead of schedule as presenting an image of instability to the Caribbean and the world.

A low-lying coral island of 35 square miles at the northern tip of the Leeward archipelago, Anguilla would probably remain forgotten but for its lively politics.

It hit the world's headlines in 1967 after Mr Webster led a rebellion against the three-island federation of St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla for what Anguilla saw as excessive taxation. Britain landed a small force to restore direct rule and Anguilla became a self-governing colony in 1976.

Anguilla's secession from St Kitts-Nevis was formalized in 1980, and it is today one of six Caribbean islands which remain British colonies.

Although executive power is vested in the British Governor, the seven members of Anguilla's House of Assembly have effective control over the island's domestic affairs.

The island has no income tax and relies on Britain for about 10 per cent of its £3.3m annual budget. It also receives about £1.3m development aid a year.

Ian Smith faces storm over mass grave find

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

A storm appears about to break over Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, after his allegations that the Zimbabwe Government was stirring up past hatred in an attempt to divert attention from alleged army brutality in Matabeleland.

The Government, he said yesterday, was trying to hide what was happening in the troubled western province because innocent people, including women and children, were being starved.

Mr Smith's accusations were made to reporters here after reports in the local press of the discovery in east Zimbabwe of mass graves, apparently of nationalist guerrillas killed by the Rhodesian forces during the seven-year independence war.

A picture published on the front page of Harare's *Herald* newspaper, here on Tuesday, showed a grave containing six skulls and bones. Mr Nathan Shamuyirwa, the Minister of Information, was quoted as saying: "The brutality and atrocities committed by the Smith regime are now being exposed."

Last night, however, a motion picture to have Mr Smith's Republican Front Party condemned for "genocidal crimes" fizzled out in the Senate.

The tone of the debate was set by Senator John Shoniswa, who opposed the motion saying that wounds were not healed by scratching "let us bury our dead," he added. "We have too many other problems."

Other Senators, black and white, described the motion as ill-timed and inflammatory and the proposer, Senator Eddie Moyo, agreed to its withdrawal.

Mr Smith told yesterday's press conference he had visited Matabeleland last week and said: "The stories one hears from people on the spot who I am convinced are sincere are absolutely horrific."

On February 3, the Government imposed a curfew over the southern half of the province, which has been the centre of two years' insurgent activity. Since then there have been persistent reports of army atrocities while the systematic cutting off of food supplies to the area has raised the spectre of mass starvation among the 420,000 people affected.

Mr Smith declined to state yesterday how many Ndebele civilians he thought had been killed or starved to death, saying figures were pure speculation.

Customs men call fuel strike

From Richard Sargent, Vienna

Italian customs officers at Thorf-Magdan, Austria's second most important frontier crossing point, today launched a strike, called for a full-scale strike for next Thursday if the Austrian Government continued to delay implementing their pay rise.

Working 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 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Greece condemns US for stand on Cyprus but rules out war option

From Mario Modiano
Athens

President Kyprianou of Cyprus and Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, are bitterly disappointed by Washington's reluctance to wrest concessions from Turkey, which they see as the only way to solve the Cyprus problem.

In long discussions in Athens this week they began what they called a radical reappraisal of their course. They are aware that the present deadlock works against Greek interests since it tends to consolidate the status quo on the divided island.

"War is not one of our options," the Cypriot President's spokesman, Mr Andreas Christofidou, said. "This, however, does not deny Cyprus the right to beef up its defences which, in turn, would enhance our negotiating power."

The idea of dispatching a Greek Army division to Cyprus to match the 17,500-odd Turkish troops in the secessionist north has often been aired in recent months.

Mr Papandreu himself implied this was an option in a recent speech in which he gave warning that if Turkey engaged in military action in Cyprus "this time we shall not just lodge an appeal to the United Nations".

During President Kyprianou's earlier visit to Athens, the Defence Ministers of Greece and Cyprus joined in the talks for the first time. The Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr Christodoulos Veniamin, is a frequent if unpublishable visitor to the Athens "pentagon" which houses the general staff headquarters.

It was significant and unusual that President Kyprianou yesterday had a separate meeting here with the Greek Minister of



President Kyprianou: Waiting for Turkey's response

State for Defence, Mr Antonis Drososyannis.

But the Cypriot spokesman denied on Wednesday that any decision had been taken to send Greek troops to Cyprus. Turkey has already given warning that it would not tolerate having the present balance of forces on the island upset.

Opinions on the effect of such a move are divided. Those who remember the humiliating terms of the 1968 withdrawal of Greek troops, who had been sent to Cyprus clandestinely by Mr Papandreu's father in the early 1960s, fear it might trigger a major crisis if not war.

Akel, the Greek Cypriot Communist Party, voiced its firm opposition to the plan in a resolution last month which said that a Greek military presence in Cyprus would adulterate the nature of the struggle and turn Cyprus into another Lebanon.

Akel's reaction reflected Moscow's standing concern that such a development would move Cyprus closer to "double enosis", which would eventually turn the island into a NATO

province divided between Greece and Turkey.

The Communists claimed that supporters of the plan argued that it was the only way to precipitate conditions in which NATO and the Americans would feel compelled to act decisively, to avert the eruption of another manmade volcano in a highly inflammable region.

Mr Papandreu has taken the Americans to task, saying that they have been bowing to their own strategic interests in lavishing economic and military aid on Turkey, "almost as a reward" for Turkey's intransigence on Cyprus.

"Pressures are being exerted not on Turkey but on Nicosia," he said. It was because of this American attitude that the Cyprus issue now entered a new phase, one of reappraisal.

The paradox was that the pressure on the Greek Cypriots came less from the Americans than from Akel (President Kyprianou's closest political ally) which was pressing for greater concessions from the Greek side to reactivate the intercommunal dialogue.

President Kyprianou, who is still awaiting Turkey's response to his own proposals for a Cyprus solution, refuses to sit at the negotiating table until the Turkish Cypriots revoke last November's unilateral declaration of independence. Akel argues that the resumption of the talks does not imply recognition of the secessionist state.

● GENEVA: Of the 20,000 Greek Cypriots who were living in the Turkish section of the island only 868 now remained, the Greek-Cypriot delegate, Mr Andreas Mavrommatis, told the 43-nation Human Rights Commission yesterday (Alan McGregor writes).



House of hope: West Germany's imposing embassy in Prague

Bonn silent on immigrants

From Michael Blayton, Bonn

The Bonn Government is maintaining a strict silence on the talks going on with East Berlin over the demand by about 20 East Germans still in the West German Embassy in Prague to be allowed to emigrate to West Germany.

Insisting that any publicity would only make a solution more complicated, government spokesmen have refused even to confirm officially the presence of the applicants in the building or to elaborate on a recent statement by Herr Heinrich Windelen, the Minister for Inner-German Relations, that contacts between Bonn and East Berlin on settling the problem had taken place this week "at the highest level".

The matter became a question of the utmost political importance and delicacy for both sides after Frau Ingrid Berg, the niece of Herr Willi Stoph, the East German Prime Minister, sought asylum in the embassy together with her husband, two small children and mother-in-law.

After six days of talks through the intermediary of Herr Wolfgang Voigt, the East German lawyer entrusted with

solving such humanitarian questions, the family was given a promise it would be allowed to go to West Germany sometime in the future provided its members first returned to East Germany and made proper applications.

The embassy in Prague is part of a restored baroque palace near the city centre, and has been leased by the West Germans from the Czech Government to serve as Bonn's embassy since 1975. The Federal Republic has had full diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia only since 1973.

The Embassy has a private garden at the back, where last week West German television showed a group it presumed were East German asylum applicants going for a walk.

The Embassy itself, comprising about 1,000 square yards of office space, has refused to say where the East Germans have been accommodated, how they entered the building or what security arrangements exist inside the building. A spokesman recently insisted, however, that work inside the mission was going on "completely as normal".

Last weekend Bild newspaper, which was quick to reveal the presence of East Germans in the Embassy, said some 3,000 had sought asylum there since the beginning of the year and had been allowed to go directly from Prague to West Germany. However, a Bonn Government spokesman was quick to deny this, saying the figure had been "plucked out of thin air", and was a "nonsensical exaggeration".

Czechoslovakia is the only country in Eastern Europe - or anywhere - which East Germans can visit without prior permission and where they can cross the frontier using only their identity cards.

It has been suggested here that the wave of asylum applicants may have been connived at by the East German authorities themselves to serve as a pretext for introducing travel restrictions.

The present wave of asylum applicants started in January when six people sought refuge in the American embassy in East Berlin. Another 12 went to the West German mission there. They were all subsequently allowed to leave.

Trevor Fishlock in Canada

Mosaic with a rich Eastern touch

Vancouver was a gold-rush staging post, a lumber camp and a few rowdy saloons when the first Chinese arrived here.

They helped to build the Canadian Pacific railroad, which opened up western Canada. They endured the racist brutality of white frontiersmen, and settled to create the second largest Chinatown in North America, after San Francisco's.

Almost a century later a new and significant group of Chinese are arriving. They are wealthy and shrewd. They are concerned about the future of Hongkong, their base, and are looking for somewhere to put their money. Until recently most of them knew little of Canada, but its stability, investment opportunities, and a Government which encourages entrepreneurs, makes it increasingly attractive.

Vancouver's business community, which has plenty of high-rolling adventurers, is becoming excited about the prospect of greater flow of money from Hongkong. The recession hit here hard, unemployment is high, around 12 per cent, and many of the high-rollers are looking pale.

Chinese from Hongkong are buying shops and apartment blocks. In one district of the city they have bought half the flats and recently purchased a \$1.5m sports centre. In 1983, a third of the 300 business deals put up to the British Columbia Government were made by Chinese.

Hongkong money is going to other parts of Canada, too. In three years businessmen from the colony have spent \$500m on property in Toronto. Canada's business centre. Under newly relaxed immigration rules Chinese entrepreneurs get two-year permits to travel and assess opportunities here.

The growing interest being shown in Canada by Chinese - the British lease on Hongkong expires in 13 years - is making eastern Canadians more aware of their own place on the Pacific. The talk, increasingly, is of the trading opportunities in the Pacific rim the huge markets of Asia, and the competition of Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

In this respect, Vancouver, the largest North American Pacific coast port, is changing its view of itself. It always seemed to be at the end of the road, 2,700 miles from Ottawa,



beyond the prairies, beyond the Rocky Mountains. Today, its 1.3 million people are looking outwards much more than they used to.

Japan, one of Canada's leading trading partners, is closer to Vancouver than to Halifax, on the Atlantic coast, and more western Canadians are holidaying in Japan and looking for business there.

Quite apart from the Hongkong entrepreneurs with money on their minds, there is a growing Asian element in Vancouver. Chinese and Japanese communities go back two or three generations and there are also relative newcomers like the Vietnamese, Cambodians, Sikhs and Indians who fled Amin's Uganda. These five alongside other immigrants like Italians, Greeks and Hispanic people, staff the children in Vancouver primary schools have a mother tongue other than English.

Vancouver thus reflects the ethnic mosaic that has assembled in all of Canada's big cities, including Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Winnipeg. Toronto has more Italians than many Italian cities here, and rates bills posted in several languages.

Canada had 12 million people at the end of the Second World War, half of them of British origin. Now the population has doubled and the Anglo-Saxon and French element is peppered and incorporated by other groups that have been arriving at the rate of about 100,000 a year since Canada's immigration rules were loosened 15 years ago.

Canada has sought a more melting-pot and believes it has learnt from observations of racial and cultural friction in Britain and in the United States.

Certainly there are quarrels, but there is also a lot of tolerance and a few cities, such as Vancouver, have a tradition of working out compromises.

Left takes a beating at Athens bar

From Our Own Correspondent, Athens

New evidence that the popularity of the ruling Socialists has been seriously eroded after almost two and a half years in power, has emerged with the election by the Athens Bar Association - traditionally a left-wing stronghold - a conservative president for the first time in three decades.

Of some 20,000 lawyers in Greece who elect presidents in 56 bar associations every three years, more than one half are in Athens where the conservative

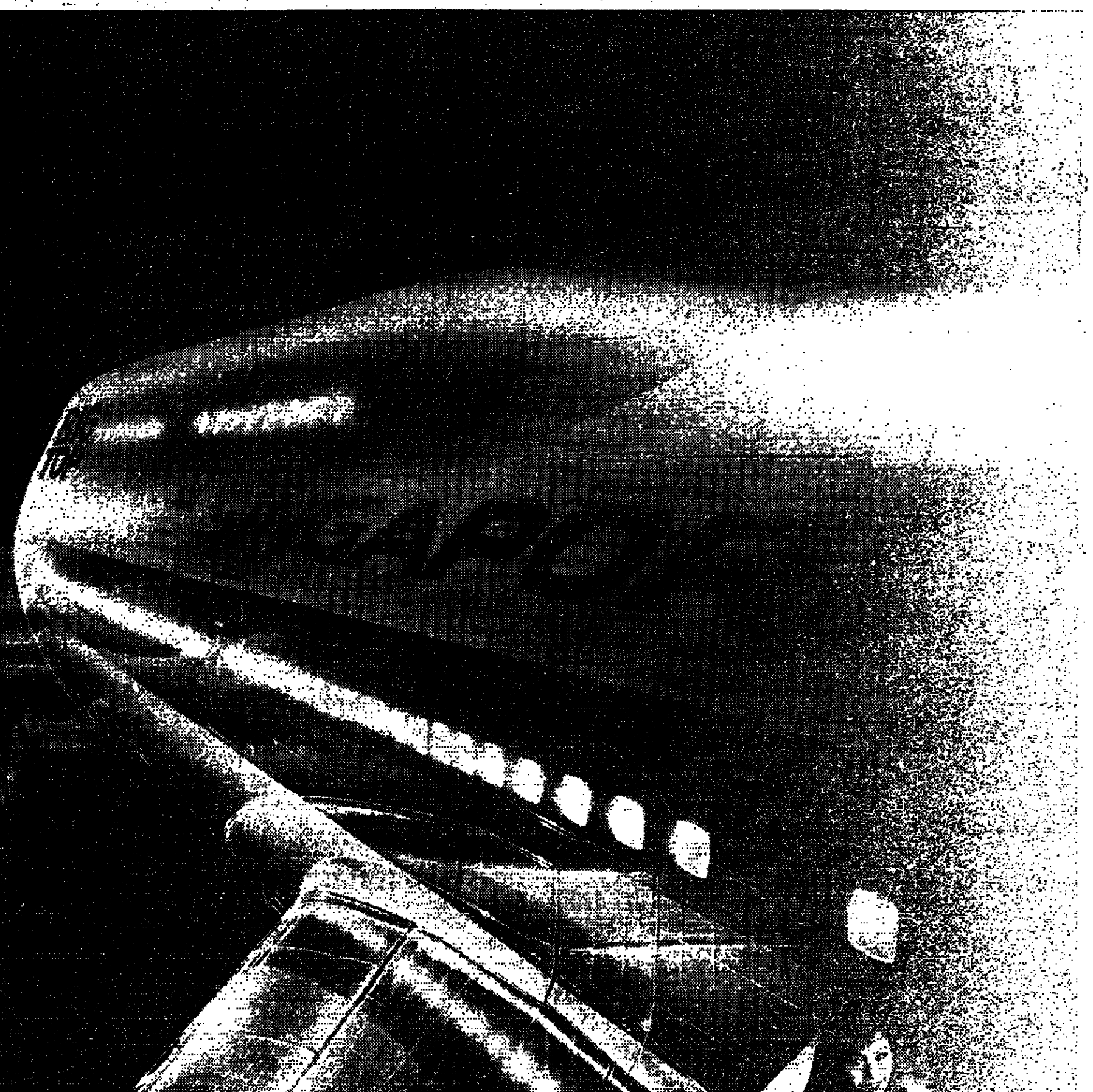
candidate, Mr Epameinondas Zafeiropoulos, won an absolute majority in the run-off election on Tuesday.

Even more significant was the fact that his rival, the outgoing president, Mr Evangelos Mahairas, a Communist Party candidate, won barely one-third of the votes in the first round, although he had Socialist support. Socialist and Communist candidates in 1981 had polled together two-thirds of the vote.

In the Salonika Bar Association, the president, an independent, won a fourth term with conservative backing, against his challenger who had full left-wing support.

Comparable results came from 22 cities where the conservative candidates won, against in which the Socialists prevailed and eight others where they won jointly with the Communists. The rest went to independents and the smaller parties.

NOW BIG TOP COMES OVER THE HORIZON AS REGULARLY AS THE SUN.



SIA, the only airline flying Stretched Upper Deck 747s from Heathrow to Singapore and Australia, will now be operating BIG TOP every single day of the week. Inside, it has an upstairs deck which is twice the size of a normal 747. And which has been designed as a single cabin to

accommodate the Business Class. On this private floor, you have your own bar service, movie facilities and galley. The seats are as wide and as comfortable as you'd expect and set only two abreast. Giving you the choice of sitting by a window or the aisle.

Downstairs, the First Class cabin is one of the most spacious in the world. All the seats are fully reclining Snoozzzers. Economy Class, too, has its share of extra room, with more space to stretch out between the specially contoured seats. In fact, because of its unique interior

design, BIG TOP has more of just about everything. More room, more movie areas, more galleys. And more gentle hostesses to give you the kind of inflight service other airlines talk about. And most people dream about.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

SPECTRUM

THE TIMES
GUIDE TO LEBANON

American troops have left Lebanon. The country's differences remain. Faction leaders meet in Lausanne for talks next week. Some reasons for the conflict were there from the nation's beginning; others are caused by outside forces. Robert Fisk and Edward Mortimer explain.

The lost pearl of the Orient

In 1892, when European tourists first began to travel the Middle East in any numbers, John Murray's *Guide to Syria and Palestine* made a few brief introductory references to Lebanon. "The Lebanon district," it was told, "is ruled by a Christian governor, appointed by the Porte and his authority is guaranteed by the Christian powers of Europe." In the "Lebanon district" - for Lebanon would not be a separate state for another half century - the writer identified the various religious communities which inhabited the land: Sunnis and Shia Muslims, the Druze, the Maronite Christians, the Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic and Greek Orthodox Christians.

In those days, Lebanon was part of Syria and, together with Palestine and much of the Arab world, was ruled by the effective, increasingly corrupt but still strong Ottoman Empire. The governor was appointed by the Sublime Porte. But in many ways, the Lebanon of 1892 is still identifiable to us, for its geographic heartland in the mountains above Beirut, its Christian leadership and its diverse religious communities are still there, in many cases in the very same villages where they existed more than 90 years ago. And until last month, the presence of a European-American multinational army in Beirut remained the world that Lebanon was still guaranteed by the Christian powers.

The withdrawal of that army, and the legacy its departure has left behind, is an important historical event, for Lebanon has come to be regarded over the past century as a kind of Christian refuge in the Middle East, an oasis of Euro-Christianity within a desert of Islam as some orientalists would cruelly have us believe. Because the Christians had sought sanctuary from persecution around Mount Lebanon, their minority status in the region became something akin to sacred in the eyes of the European powers. When the Druze massacred Christians in the Chouf Mountains a century ago, the French army landed in Lebanon. The country was seen by France, and by the rest of Europe, as morally and historically important.

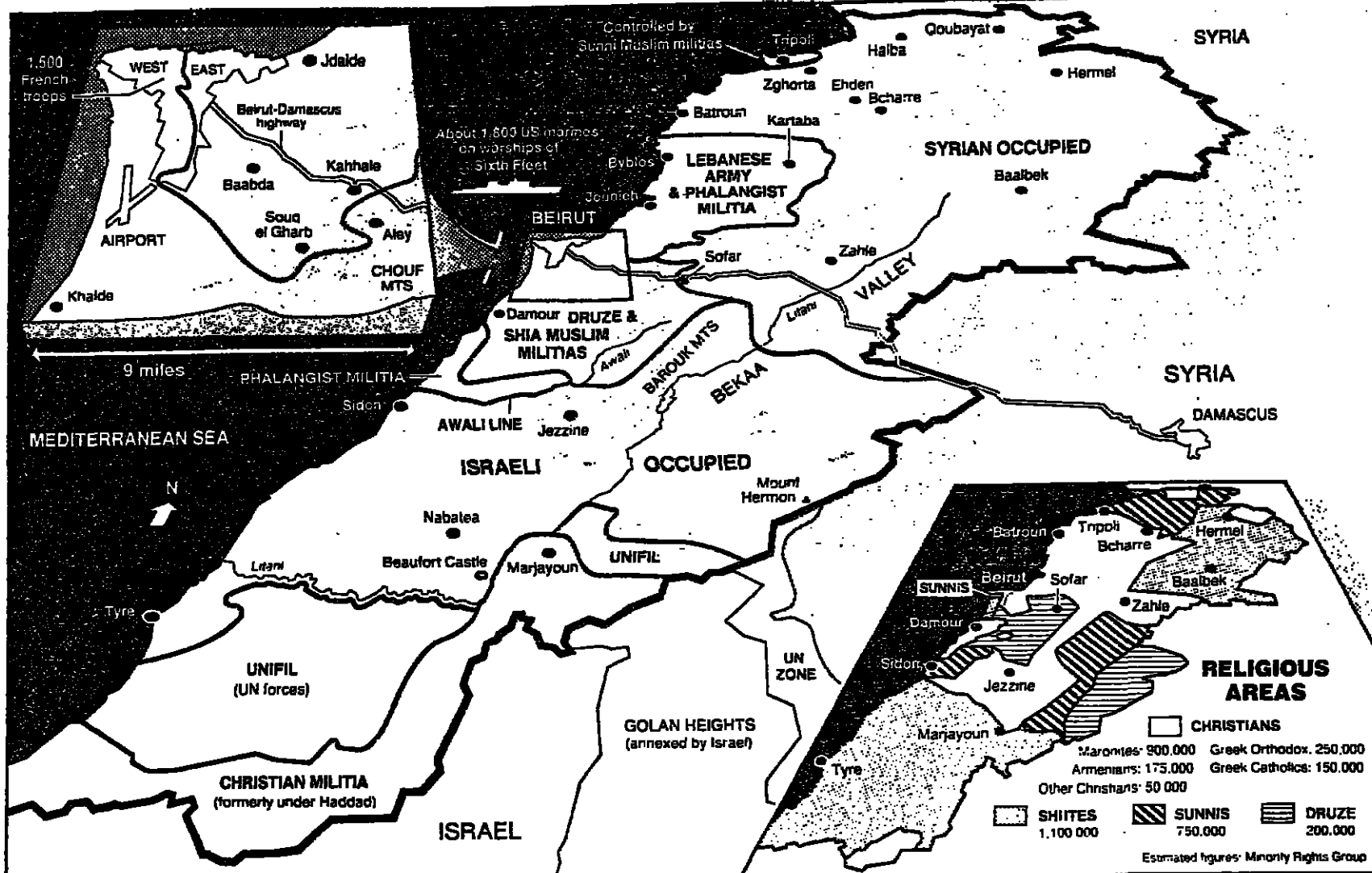
Thus, after the Second World War, when Lebanon had secured its independence from French mandate, the nation was

ruled by Christians still. They did so courtesy of a carefully constructed system of power-sharing that showed much French influence, a framework that gave the Maronites the presidency, the Sunni Muslims the prime ministership with an army chief of staff who was always a Druze and an Assembly speaker who had to be a Shia Muslim.

The old monochrome newsreel films of the 1950s and 60s, suggest that things were not as halcyon as the travel brochures suggested. While the cameramen for Pathe News could not resist the surfers of the St George Hotel, much of their material, scratched and faded though it is in the archives, has a disturbing familiarity for us today. The films show street battles in Beirut and Tripoli, and Hawker Hunter jets strafing "rebels" in the Muslim slums. Newsreels more than 20 years old depict American marines landing on the beaches south of Beirut. Democracy did not seem to be working.

To many Muslims in Lebanon, democracy did not even exist. There were two reasons why they thought this. There had been no population census since 1932 and although Muslims now formed a majority of the population - and Shia Muslims were now the largest community - there was no way of proving this. The Sunnis, the more well-to-do of Lebanon's Muslims, feared that a change in the system might discriminate against them, were happy to accept the status quo. Furthermore, the social consensus that the Lebanese regarded as the bedrock of their national life was equally non-existent. The state was founded upon family consensus, upon the rule of quasi-feudal families like the Frangieh, the Jumblat and the Gemayel. Those who were not represented by this aristocracy of power - and the Shia, poor and impoverished in the south of Lebanon, were the principal victims of the system - simply lacked any real stake in the country to which they were supposed to be loyal.

The divisions that were to characterize the nearly nine years of horror and bloodshed that have not yet ended in Lebanon were thus clearly defined long before the nation broke apart in civil war in 1975. It is a truism of the Lebanese that their suffering has been brought about by outside



1943 Lebanon declares independence. Unwritten National Pact.
1948 Israel created. Palestinian refugees arrive in Lebanon.
1956 First civil war. US marines sent to support President Chamoun.
1968 Israel begins retaliatory raids against Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.
1969 Lebanese Army, backed by Phalangists, fights PLO; then signs Cairo Agreement regulating guerrilla activities.
1970 President becomes President. PLO transfers its headquarters from Jordan.
1975 Civil war breaks out. PLO and pro-Arab Lebanese left versus Christian Lebanese nationalists.
1976 Syria intervenes to save Frangieh and Christians from left-wing victory. Syria's Hafez al-Assad becomes president with Syrian support.
1978 Israel invades south Lebanon, then withdraws, handing over part to UNIFIL and part to Haddad militia.
1981 July: Israel bombs Beirut. PLO shells Galilee. Philip Habib arranges ceasefire.
1982 June: Israel invades Lebanon. Siege of Beirut. August: PLO leaves Beirut. Bashir Gemayel elected President. September: Bashir Gemayel assassinated. Amn Gemayel becomes President. US marines return to Beirut as part of multi-national force.
1983 May: Israeli-Lebanese agreement signed. September: Israel withdraws to Awail line. Civil war in Chouf mountains. October: Bomb attacks in Beirut kill nearly 300 US and French troops.
1984 February: British, Italian and US troops pull out. Shia militia conquers West Beirut. Muslim army units defect to opposition.
1984 March: Lebanon cancels agreement with Israel.

PRO-GOVERNMENT

Lebanese Forces (2000 regulars, 10,000 reservists). The Christian militia built up by the late Bashir Gemayel between 1976 and his death on September 14 1982 - a week before he was due to take office as President. The main component is the Phalange Party founded (in 1936) and still led by his father Pierre Gemayel, now aged 78.



Camille Chamoun Pierre Gemayel

The political wing is the Lebanese Front, chaired by ex-President Camille Chamoun, whose son Dany is the hard-line candidate for President if Amin Gemayel falls. The Chamouns' separate militia was suppressed by Bashir Gemayel in 1980. They may now emerge as leaders of opposition to Amin Gemayel's new rapprochement with Syria.

Only insofar as the Middle East conflict affects its nearest neighbours is this true. Lebanon already had a sizeable population of Palestinian refugees who had fled their homes when the Israeli state was set up in 1948. In 1970, the Palestinian forces driven out of Jordan by King Hussein's army also fled to Lebanon and a state within a state was born.

The Palestinians did not start the civil war although their presence stoked the distrust and suspicion that already existed between the rival communities. A fishermen's strike in Sidon

The rumour of the Lebanese Army and state machinery, mainly Christian, is loyal to President Amin Gemayel, who was elected after his brother's death. Regarded as the moderate member of the family and initially backed by Lebanese of all communities, Amin steadily lost support among Muslims as his regime took on a Phalangist partisan flavour.

ANTI-GOVERNMENT

Ex-President Suleiman Frangieh, who will be 74 in June, still rules the northern fief of Zghorta under the protection of the Syrian army. It was Frangieh who called in the Syrians to save Christian Lebanon in



Suleiman Frangieh

was a Maronite president, Suleiman Frangieh, who invited the Syrians to enter the country in 1976 and for almost six months Syrian troops fought the Palestinians in an effort to restore order in Lebanon and prevent the chaos there moving across the border into Syria. The Israelis, after an unsuccessful invasion in 1978, put 40,000 men into Lebanon in 1982 to fight the PLO and allied themselves with the Christian Phalangist militia.

After Israel's Phalangist allies had murdered hundreds of helpless Palestinian civilians in

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPETING FORCES

1976, and he continued backing them when other Maronite leaders swung against them the following year. Has never forgiven the Gemayels for the killing of his son, daughter-in-law and three-year-old granddaughter in 1978.

Druze: mountain militia of up to 7,000 men under leadership of Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party. Jumblatt became leader in 1977 after his father's assassination - almost certainly by the Syrians whose 1976 intervention he had opposed. Having learnt the lesson, Walid relied on Syrian support and weapons in his struggle against the Gemayel government.

Amal: Shia Muslim militia led by Nabih Berri, probably capable of fielding up to 10,000 armed men in both Beirut and



Nabih Berri

September 1982, American marines - with troops from France and Italy and later Britain - arrived to protect the Muslims of Beirut. But President Reagan decided they had come to support the government of President Amin Gemayel whose brother Bashir had been murdered after obtaining the presidency with Israel's assistance three weeks earlier and, inevitably, the Sixth Fleet ended up by defending Gemayel's government. Since Gemayel had been a Phalangist, since his security apparatus was principally run by Phalangists

and since his government came to be opposed by a majority of Muslims, the American naval bombardments that began last year were directed against the Druze and Shia Muslim militias, the enemies of the Phalange. The Christians of Lebanon were still being supported by the Christian powers of Europe and America.

Now with the Christian powers all but gone, the triumphant Syrians are set upon an "Arab" Lebanon that shows its Muslim majority in terms of political power and which, no doubt, will be expected to show gratitude towards Syria for its national salvation. The Gemayel government has fallen apart and the Israelis now have nothing left to show for their 1982 invasion. The Americans have abandoned the pearl of the Orient. The Christian Maronites themselves now feel abandoned. There are those who believe that the Christians may simply leave for the European states that have supported them in vain for the past 100 years. In which case, the Lebanon the world believed in is no more.

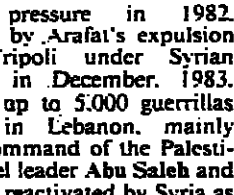
(Source: Lebanon: A conflict of minorities - Minority Rights Group report No. 51.)

FOREIGN

Yassir Arafat's PLO is a spent force in Lebanon since its departure from Beirut under Israeli pressure in 1982, followed by Arafat's expulsion from Tripoli under Syrian pressure in December, 1983. Perhaps up to 5,000 guerrillas remain in Lebanon, mainly under command of the Palestinian rebel leader Abu Saleh and could be reactivated by Syria as

southern Lebanon. Now joined by defecting units of the army (11,000 men), (Druze, more extreme group "Islamic Amal" led by Husain Musawi, has been blamed for suicide attacks on American, French and Israeli forces.)

Sunni Muslims: the old Ottoman ruling class (see below), lack any sizable military force but under the "National Pact" have always provided the prime minister. Their elder statesman, Saeb Salam, born in 1905, initially supported the Gemayel regime but later washed his hands of it.



Saeb Salam

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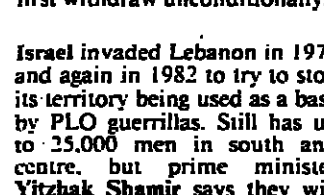
(Source: Lebanon: A conflict of minorities - Minority Rights Group report No. 51.)



Hafez al-Assad

a new guerrilla force in the Bekaa Valley.

Hafez al-Assad, President of Syria, is more than ever the dominant power in Lebanon since the departure of the US Marines. Syria accepted Lebanon's independence in 1945, but has never regarded it as a foreign country. Assad first intervened militarily in 1976 to save the Christians from the left and the PLO, but keeps up to 50,000 men there mainly to prevent any links between Lebanon and Israel. Says he will withdraw them if Israeli troops first withdraw unconditionally.



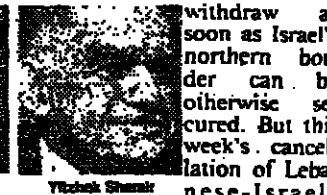
Yitzhak Shamir

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1978 and again in 1982 to try to stop its territory being used as a base by PLO guerrillas. Still has up to 25,000 men in south and centre, but prime minister Yitzhak Shamir says they will

and since his government came to be opposed by a majority of Muslims, the American naval bombardments that began last year were directed against the Druze and Shia Muslim militias, the enemies of the Phalange. The Christians of Lebanon were still being supported by the Christian powers of Europe and America.

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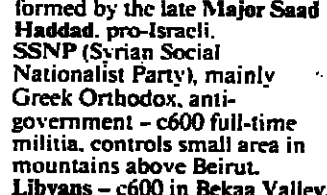
(Source: Lebanon: A conflict of minorities - Minority Rights Group report No. 51.)



Yitzhak Shamir

as soon as Israel's northern border can be otherwise secured. But this week's cancellation of Lebanese-Israeli agreement may mean Israel is in for a long stay in the south.

Iranians - up to 1,000 based at Baalbek. French - all that is left of Multinational Force in Beirut, likely to leave soon. American ships offshore with 1800 US Marines on board. UNIFIL - c.5,250 UN troops, sent to south in 1978 and still there although overrun by Israel. Tawheed Islamia up to 1,000 Sunni nationalists in Tripoli. Haddad militia in south - c.1,500 Christians and Shia, formed by the late Major Saad Haddad, pro-Israeli. SSNP (Syrian Social Nationalist Party), mainly Greek Orthodox, anti-government - c.600 full-time militia, controls small area in mountains above Beirut. Libyans - c.600 in Bekaa Valley.



Yitzhak Shamir

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other confessions can match and as a result, as an extremely formidable adversary. They established their independence from outsiders and a system of social bonds not unlike that of European feudalism, from the sixteenth century onwards, with peasants serving landed families who themselves formed a hierarchy of nobility recognizing the paramountcy of one family.

(Source: Lebanon: A conflict of minorities - Minority Rights Group report No. 51.)

CHRISTIANS

The Greek (or Arab) Orthodox - estimated numbers 250,000. Traditionally supports Arab or Syrian rather than purely Lebanese nationalism. The Greek Catholic Church - estimated 150,000 - is a splinter from the above. Retains oriental rites and customs but recognizes Papal supremacy. The Maronite Church - 900,000 - related with Rome since 1216

and in formal union with the Holy See since 1736. Refugees in Mount Lebanon since at least the seventh century AD, the Maronites see themselves as the most authentic Lebanese and have generally rejected Arab nationalism. The 1943 National Pact gave them the presidency of the Republic, and so a dominant position in the state.

SUNNIS

These form the "Muslim

establishment" in as much as Sunni Islam was the official confession of the Ottoman empire. Sunnis live mainly in the parts of Syria added to historic Mount Lebanon by France to form the "Etat du Grand Liban" in 1920. Traditionally therefore they were Arab nationalists and hostile to the specifically Lebanese nationalism associated with the Maronites. In the National Pact of 1943 they accepted Maronite

dominance within Lebanon - in return for recognition of Lebanon's Arab identity and acceptance that the prime minister should always be a Sunni. Overlaid demographically by the despised Shia Muslims, the Sunnis are perhaps the main losers of the civil war, having failed to organize an effective military force of their own.

SHIA MUSLIMS

They belong to the minority branch of Islam which holds that Ali, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, was his rightful successor. In Lebanon they lived mainly south of Sidon and in the Bekaa until, as the poorest and most populous community attracted by urbanization, and as the main victim of Israeli air-

raids and incursions in the south, many of them moved to Beirut where they are now the largest community. Living especially in the southern suburbs and shantytowns, initially attracted by communism, from the early 1970s they found a communal and spiritual leader of their own: the Imam Musa Sadr, who had close ties with the clergy in Iran, including Khomeini. He disappeared in Khmeini in 1978.

Druze

They are a splinter from a splinter of Shiism, theologically on the borderline of Islam. They started as followers of a thirteenth century Caliph of Egypt. After his disappearance its adherents fled to the southern part of Mount Lebanon where they became the neighbours of the Maronites. The Druze have maintained a degree of social solidarity few

other confessions can match and as a result, as an extremely formidable adversary. They established their independence from outsiders and a system of social bonds not unlike that of European feudalism, from the sixteenth century onwards, with peasants serving landed families who themselves formed a hierarchy of nobility recognizing the paramountcy of one family.

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Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

- Travel: Salute to adventurers - safaris, trekking, trips in the jungle and Antarctica
- Flower power: The exotic world of orchids
- Sport: Preview of the last eight in the FA Cup and John Player Cup
- Family Money: Last-minute ways to beat the Budget



Spirit of adventure: Trekkers in the Himalayas, Nepal

PLUS: News from home and abroad; Bernard Levin on literary graffiti; paperbacks of the month; a selection of March wines; The Times Garden Project; Values on the new look in department stores; Family Life and the only child; Bridge, Chess and the prize crossword.

Can you always get your copy of The Times?

Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of THE TIMES

Name.....Address.....

Should National Trust properties have families living in them? Roger Scruton thinks the answer is definitely yes, and is horrified by stately homes which contain only furniture and the ghosts of families past. He might be amazed to learn that he has an ally within the NT itself, in the shape of their family planning officer, Martin Sibling.

"I'm not your actual run-of-the-mill family planning person," says Martin, whose previous job was as a celebrity consultant with Madame Tussaud's. "Most family planning people are trying to prevent families - my aim is to encourage them. In fact, I won't be happy until each and every National Trust property has the requisite set of residents installed."

The first experiment took place a year ago at March Madness, a country house near Gloucester which was given to the NT in 1978 and has lain empty ever since, except for visitors. Martin decided that it needed something melodramatic to bring it back to life, so he assembled a family consisting of one drunken admiral, one long-suffering wife, one secret lover and two children, one of whom wants to run away with the gypsies. He says that their success was immediate.

"When visitors were going round the house, they would be

electrified by the sound of the admiral bursting through the front door and shouting: 'I'm home from Madagascar, dear - where are you?' The lover would then rush down the staircase and escape, not fully clothed, while the children would throw themselves at father and beg him not to hurt the mother, after which he would pursue her from room to room without ever catching her."

"Well, of course, the public loved this - it somehow seemed to bring a breath of Georgian life back to the old place. It wasn't a real family of course, just actors hired for the season, but then I often think that real families can be very disappointing, don't you? Anyway, we're spreading the idea fast. We now have put a very exciting family in a castle in Somerset, including a mad grandmother and a father who insults visitors, as well as a family in a manor house in Hampshire who haven't been speaking to each other for generations and ask the visitors to take notes to the other members of the family. This way, the visitors really feel involved."

Each family has six weeks basic training, in motivation and in table manners, and then they move in. Most of them are unemployed actors who are prepared to work for little more than board and lodging, and

although they have never met each other before, they form a family unit very quickly.

"Too quickly, sometimes," says Martin. "One of the daughters living at a National Trust property in Kent has become pregnant and we're not sure who by. It might even be by one of the visitors. But that's English country family life for you."

I was privileged yesterday to join a party of visitors going round Easter Rabbits, a lovely manor house in East Anglia, where every day the eldest son has a terrific argument with father, after which he strides from the house, shouting: "I am going to London - you will never see me again!" and leaps into a waiting hired car. I could tell that most of the visitors, cowering in the front hall as this took place, believed they were watching a genuine event. One lady I talked to thought it was better than television.

"I've been to the house five times now," she told me, "and each time I've been lucky enough to catch this scene. It's wonderful. I think the National Trust is better than the Thorns Birds."

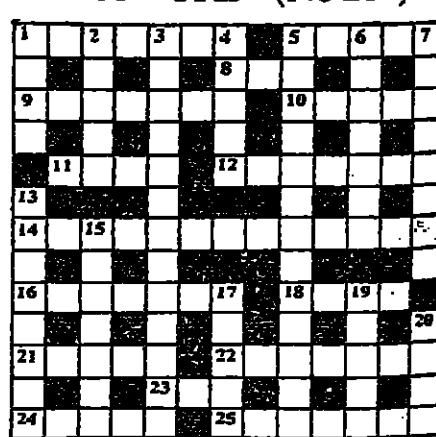
Martin Sibling confirms that takings have shot up at houses which now have families installed and sees it as the trend of the future.

"Tell your friend Scruton to come and have a look," he says. I think he'd love what we're doing. Perhaps he would like to join a family for a season. We always need opinionated young men - they get people's backs up so wonderfully. Just tell him to get in touch with me."

I promised and left, just as an eighteenth-century plate whizzed past my head and a voice cried: "Never darken this threshold again, you black-hearted young puppy!"

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 287)

- ACROSS
1 British (7)
5 Poetry (5)
8 Not me (3)
9 S American (7)
10 Reasoned argument (5)
11 WW II machine gun (4)
12 Medicine dispenser (7)
14 Book classifier (13)
16 Scrutinise closely (7)
17 Former Persia (4)
18 Temporary ceasefire (5)
22 Rustproof metal (7)
23 Modifier (3)
24 Writing tables (5)
25 Play jokes (7)



- DOWN
1 Infant (4)
2 Of sun (5)
3 Resourcefulness (13)
4 Song words (5)

- 5 Openness to hurt (3)
6 Mischiefous (7)
7 And the rest (8)
13 Done away with (8)
15 W Pyrenean people (7)

SOLUTION TO No 286

ACROSS: 1 Thrush 5 Swift 8 UHT 9 Slalom 10 Cranny 11 Root 12 Rheostat 14 Incomunicable 17 Treppass 19 Avar 21 Geisha 23 Rustful 24 Cru 25 Myrde 26 Mitten
DOWN: 2 Halo 3 Ablutions 4 Humdrum 5 Stove 6 Run 7 Forward 13 Sacrament 15 Nursery 16 Nostrium 18 Avar 20 Eude 22 Set

هكذا من الأصل

FRIDAY PAGE

Diana Geddes meets an Iranian business man whose family experienced the terror of Khomeini's rule

Life in the graveyard

His old peasant face was gentle and strangely unmarked by the physical and psychological ordeals he had undergone since the Ayatollah Khomeini's guards had burst into his house nearly three years ago. He had seen his wife and five children, the youngest only seven, beaten until blood streamed from their bodies. He had seen his oldest son, tortured beyond recognition before being executed. His daughter had been sentenced to life imprisonment. He himself had been imprisoned and tortured, but had escaped after two and a half years, and now had come to Paris via Pakistan "to tell the world the truth about Khomeini".

Hassan Jabbar-Zaré was born of poor parents in Esfahan 58 years ago. He left school after completing his primary education, and gradually built up a highly successful business in the city's bazaar, at first selling sweets and heating oil, then buying a petrol station, and later acquiring a farm outside Esfahan.

"I hated the Shah and his dictatorial regime", he said, speaking through an interpreter. "When the revolution came five years ago, I and my sons immediately responded, organizing rallies, selling newspapers, and writing anti-Shah slogans on walls. Everyone looked to Khomeini for salvation. But they soon discovered that he was a wolf hiding behind a sheep's mask."

"Khomeini is a swine, he has changed Iran into a place of sorrow and grief. He has done nothing positive for the people. He is only concerned with his own power and status, and will do anything to keep that. He is the biggest tyrant Iran has ever seen. Going from the Shah to

Khomeini was like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. The Shah executed political opponents, but Khomeini executes children for possessing the "wrong" kind of newspaper. His regime is far more brutal than the of the Shah. He has turned Iran into a graveyard."

His son, Ali, aged 17 and still at school, was the first to sense the disillusionment and join the Mujaheddin opposition against Khomeini. Amir, Ali's 15-year-old brother, followed suit, and the two soon persuaded their father to help the cause. He sold his house and garage and gave the proceeds amounting to about £150,000 to the Mujaheddin. The two boys distributed Mujaheddin newspapers after school.

On June 20, 1981, the repression against the Mujaheddin movement began. Less than a fortnight later, Khomeini's guards charged into the Jabbar-Zaré house, dragging the sleeping family from their beds, hitting them in the stomach and over the head with the rifle butts and locking the father and the two eldest boys into the excruciatingly painful, so-called "balancing" handcuffs, breaking some of the father's bones as they wrenched one arm over his shoulder, forcing it down to meet the other arm twisted behind his back.

"We were taken blindfolded in trucks to the guards' headquarters and thrown into a courtyard where we lay bleeding and still handcuffed.



Fear on the faces of escaped Iranian prisoners, Hassan Jabbar-Zaré and a friend

We could hear the screams of women being tortured in cells near by. We were to wait ten days until our interrogation and torture began. They beat us spread-eagled on the floor with inch-thick electric cables. They tied us to chairs, and beat the soles of our feet until the rope ate into the flesh. More than two years later, I still have trouble walking. My son Ali used to say: 'My father is too old. Hit me instead of him!'

"They wanted information about the Mujaheddin - names and addresses. They didn't believe that I knew nothing. I was finally taken back to the cells, but after a few days

I was brought out again, this time for psychological torture. I was tied blindfolded to a tree and told I was to be executed, but when they opened fire, the bullets hit the tree around me. Three times that happened. They told me that Ali had denounced the Mujaheddin and had joined Khomeini, and that it was he who was firing at me. I later learned that they told him the same about me when he was undergoing mock executions."

"When they realized I couldn't, or wouldn't, say anything, they threw me down on the ground, beat me again and then trampled over my body. When I asked why they were doing such things, they hit me in the face, knocking out my teeth, and then jabbed a metal hook into my neck and dragged me along the ground until I lost consciousness. I came to a day, later in a pool of blood."

voice broke and tears welled up in his eyes as his face crumpled in pain. It was the last time Hassan saw his son. His execution, along with 54 others in the same prison, including a 12-year-old boy, was announced on September 17, 1981. The official death toll by execution under Khomeini's regime is 8,000, but the Mujaheddin leaders in Paris estimate the real figure is nearer 40,000.

Soon after his son's death, Hassan was moved to another prison, given a summary trial and sentenced to life imprisonment, later reduced to 10 years. But his health had deteriorated so badly that he was eventually allowed to go to a hospital for treatment. It was from there that the Mujaheddin arranged for his escape last November.

He said he had been struck on leaving prison by the tremendous growth in opposition to the Khomeini regime and the increasing willingness for people to bring that opposition out into the open.

"People are nearing boiling point. Everywhere they are turning against Khomeini. Before he died, my son Ali said that I should try to escape and explain to the world that innocent people were being killed by Khomeini, but that his regime would not last because our people would win."

Hassan himself did not sound altogether convinced. "My daughter is still in prison," he added suddenly. "Her sentence has been reduced to five years, but I am worried. She has got a kidney trouble. Please explain in your article that she is innocent, that she was never involved with the Mujaheddin."

TALKBACK

It's tough in town

From Yvonne Steadman, 72 Poplar Way, Midhurst, West Sussex

I find it difficult to reconcile the actuality of living in cities with the exciting, pulsing life that Penny Perick would have us believe. So life is tough in converted homes in South Kent? Ask the mums in a tower block in Southwark what they feel about scampering up and down the stairs, when the lifts have been vandalized (again). No need for suburban car pools and round-the-clock chauffeurs? Doesn't parent-hood involve a commitment to the children for those few short years before they leave home, be it in the city, downtown Kingston or even Midhurst? Country kids watch too much television? No, townies transplanted from their concrete fields for the odd weekend do.

If Ms Perick really wants to stem the flow of families to the country and the merging of inner city primary schools (isn't that caused by falling birth rates nationwide?) shouldn't she campaign to close down the poverty stricken city boroughs, and allow everyone to live in the congenial surroundings of South Kensington, or better still Chelsea? At least the children would be able to "loiter" safely there without fear of mugging, in between nipping round to "the bright lights". Or better still, let her write intelligent articles on the mess that local government officials are making of life in the inner city boroughs.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

The curses of a restrained age

Peggy Ashcroft's portrayal of Barbie in *The Jewel in the Crown* (right) was given authentic medical detail when the hitherto devout and refined missionary, recovering from pneumonia and head injury, addressed her attendant nun in the language of a Catterick drill sergeant. Uncharacteristic swearing is a comparatively common but tragic symptom of the loss of inhibitions which sometimes accompanies senile dementia; often it strikes the most unlikely patient, so that, before suitable tranquilizers were available, most psychiatric wards seemed to house a parson's wife who, freed of a lifetime of restraint, talked the salty language of the docks in the accents of the vicarage tea party.

Unexpected swearing is not always a symptom of dementia, it also occurs in some schizophrenic patients and in a rare psychiatric condition, the Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome; this

usually starts in childhood or early adolescence. The syndrome has three groups of symptoms: the patient, often otherwise intelligent, suffers from periodic involuntary limb and facial movements, tics; he shouts obscenities and swears compulsively, coprolalia; and copies crudely the gestures of people near him, echopraxia.

Forty years ago, as Barbie battled to maintain her standards in the changing world of the Raj, the adolescents of Norfolk were being kept on tenterhooks at parties as they waited to see whether the son of a strict, but grand parson, would embarrass his family with his curses and inappropriate gestures. His tolerant contemporaries did not know that he was suffering from the Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome, but did realize that there was in his behaviour, as in poor Barbie's, an element of subconscious rebellion against the demands of society.



Victory over shyness

Many of the press reviews of last week's premiere of *Champions* commented on the number of the audience who cried as they watched Bob Champion's determination to survive cancer and win the National. Neither victory would have been possible without the medical scientists whose battle to find a means of early diagnosis and treatment has so radically altered the outlook for patients with some types of testicular tumour.

The frank way in which Bob Champion discusses his case in the film, should, as well as encouraging those already having treatment, also reassure those who hesitate about reporting a change in size of their testes to the doctor. Recent advances in chemotherapy and radiotherapy, spearheaded by the work at the Institute of Cancer Research, at the Royal Marsden and Charing Cross Hospitals, mean that many types of testicular tumour which are the commonest cancerous growths affecting young men can now be treated. The percentage successfully treated would be further increased if patients would overcome their shyness and seek an early medical opinion.

Bob Champion: the winner

The nature of these swellings can now be initially explored by painless ultrasound, as well as by checking the blood, and if necessary, spinal fluid for chemicals, the human chorionic gonadotrophin and the alpha fetoproteins, produced by some malignant growths.

These measures, in the opinion of a recent paper published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, are now essential in all cases when young men have a testicular swelling, or a hydrocele - a collection of fluid around the testes - unless a benign diagnosis is absolutely certain.

rubber tips as companions to deep sea fishermen. Their numbers, which had been growing, have recently been controlled by epidemics caused by anaerobic organisms which have grown in the putrefying waste thrown out in airtight black refuse bags. Recent reports suggest that the birds pick up the salmonella from human sewage washed up on the beach, spread it to farm livestock by roosting on hen-houses and other farm buildings and from this source to humans.

Dr Thomas Stuttard

The symbol of Menap, the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults was used in error to accompany a Medical Briefing item last week.

Watch the birdie

Whatever nostalgic thoughts may be conjured up by the call of the seagulls on Roy Plomley's desert island his castaways would be well advised, if they want to stay healthy while awaiting rescue, to keep their food supplies away from the gulls. Ten per cent are carriers of food-poisoning germs of the salmonella group. As salmonella is not heat-resistant the shipwrecked mariner could eat the gulls' eggs, provided that they were boiled for at least 10 minutes.

Although pictures of seagulls following the plough or in the wake of a trawler give a romantic image, they are as likely to be scavengers on local

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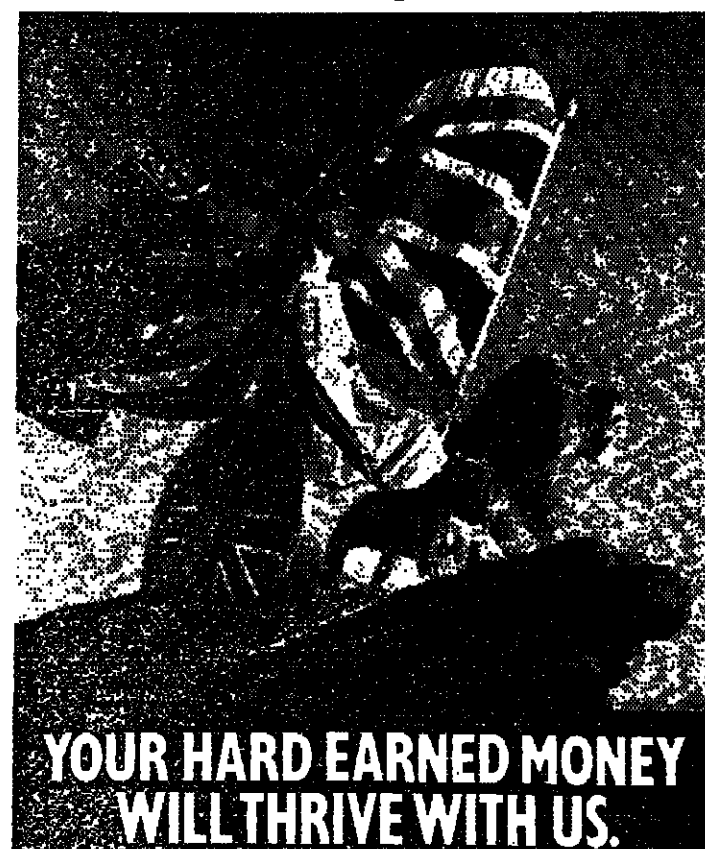
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YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY WILL THRIVE WITH US.

THE TIMES DIARY

Simply harrowing

Eton College was attacked yesterday over the alleged run-down condition of blocks of flats which it owns in Swiss Cottage, north-west London, and for big rent increases. A "Tenants of Eton College" action group has been formed to pursue complaints of neglect and to challenge the rents, which, I am told, in some cases have doubled over the past year. Caroline Harrison, a worker with Camden Private Tenants' Federation, which helped organize the group's inaugural meeting, accused Eton of failing to invest in the upkeep of the blocks. "There are many serious problems and a lot of squalid properties," Eton's bursar, Richard Symes Thompson, denied the allegations, claiming that the Labour-controlled Camden council was behind the uproar on the Eton estates. "The initiative for this group did not come from the tenants; it came from the federation, which is financed by the council." Undeterred, the tenants plan further action.

Fare exchange

The cold war of words between CND and Lady Olga Maitland's Women and Families for Defence is heating up. The latest issue of CND's *Saville* magazine chides Lady Olga for charging £260 expenses for a trip to debate the nuclear question with a CND group in Wigan. "What do they expect me to do, take the bus?" asked Lady Olga, who travelled by rail first class. "Anyway, when one of the Greenham women came to talk at one of our meetings in Southampton, she charged us for the taxi fare there and back."

Smoke screen

As the Swedish Navy continues to plumb the depths of Karlskrona Bay in search of the mystery frogmen, a rare display of Red humour bobbed to the surface. Slotted between the end of Radio Poland's English language news bulletin to Scandinavia and the station's regular Chopin call sign, was an unexplained blast of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes".

BARRY FANTONI



Jewel in the chair

Norman Stone, the Hitler expert who was drafted in by *The Sunday Times* last year to detail the inconsistencies of the forged Fuhrer diaries, has been appointed to the chair of modern history at Worcester College, Oxford, succeeding Richard Cobb.

Stone, a fellow at Trinity, Cambridge, angered many fellow historians in 1980 with his Hitler biography, which emerged disrespectful of convention. "Hitler was not born poor; he was never a house-painter; he fought very courageously in the First World War. He did not 'seize' power in 1933, but obtained it by means that were at least as constitutional as those that had kept his three predecessors in office," wrote Stone. The "incurably clever" Scot caused further controversy last year with *Europe Transformed 1878-1919* with its bold speculation and robust contempt for foreigners. Yesterday Stone, who is said to have an "almost Gibbonian sense of irony," told me: "Modern history is much bigger business in Oxford than it is in Cambridge... I won't be leaving the chair for the next 25 years, unless I roll off in a drink."

Crash course

A foreigner drove his turbo Porsche into the Savoy courtyard one day this week and asked the doorman to park it. The obliging fellow got in, turned on the engine, and drove it straight through the hotel's swing doors. As scaffolding was being erected, all became clear yesterday. The client is disabled, and the pedals had been specially transposed.

● It seems the sun never did set on the Empire out in East London. Estate agents A. Prevost and Partners of Mile End Road are currently offering for sale a one-bedroom flat "in popular Victorian 1930s block".

Bags not us

Staff shortages at the British Museum have forced it to stop bag searches - only a month after the seventeenth century Ottoman portrait was cut from its frame, and pocketed. The Sin by Sin painting has still not been recovered. One of the museum's regular visitors said yesterday the decision was "utterly irresponsible; for what more obvious target for those who hate British culture than this temple?" The British Museum said that if the security cutback was reintroduced to stop the inevitable hoaxes and matters who try to draw attention to themselves." PHS

Nicholas Ashford follows Senator Gary Hart's meteoric take-off



The several faces of Hart: above, the dedicated new ideas man and the ever-youthful Kennedy reincarnation. Right, scintillating success with his wife Lee. Below, the shoe-string senator after a hard day on the stump



From minibus to bandwagon

Birmingham, Alabama. There was standing room only on the press bus accompanying Senator Gary Hart as he blitzed his way around the deep south this week. In fact, by the time he reached Huntsville, in northern Alabama, on Wednesday, so many journalists had joined the Hart bandwagon that the senator's supporters had to transport the overflow in their own cars.

If political success is measured by media attention - and in US presidential campaigns virtually everything a candidate says or does is with television cameras in mind - then Hart's late-firing bid for the Democratic nomination has turned into a dazzling *tour de force*.

Since his hatrick of victories in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont, Hart's craggy good looks have dominated news, magazine covers and newspaper front pages. "Hart attack", "Hart breaker", "Hart stopper" clamour headlines above stories about Hart's astonishing successes and the shattering of Walter Mondale's aura of invincibility.

No longer is Hart portrayed as the handsome but oh-so-dull-and-earnest Senator from Colorado with his carefully-cut crop of hair and his sober blue suit. All of a sudden he is seen in checked shirt and red braces taking part in an axe-throwing contest, in shirtsleeves cracking open a bottle of champagne after his New Hampshire victory, or sporting a Tampa "Strawberry Festival" T-shirt handing around a basket of fruit to the accompanying pack of press men.

In just two weeks, Hart has gained what Mondale failed to achieve after three years of hard labour and heavy investment - momentum and media attention, the two most precious commodities in an American presidential election.

Hart's shoe-string organization is still a shambles. His coffers remain bare despite a sudden influx of donations following his New Hampshire success. But for the time being these minor inconveniences compared with the media roller-coaster on which he is now riding and which many political observers

believe may sweep him to victory at the Democratic Party's nominating convention in July.

Before that, however, he faces the toughest test of all on Tuesday, when nine states hold primaries and caucuses to select over 600 delegates to the Democratic convention. Three of these, Florida, Georgia and Alabama, are in the south, an area where Hart was virtually unknown until two weeks ago and which he had largely ignored.

But no longer. Large crowds turn out to see "Gary the giant-killer" wherever he goes. In Huntsville, where his campaign office opened its doors only three days ago, 300 people applauded his arrival. Fewer than 50 turned out to see Mondale, who had visited the town a few hours earlier.

"I was going to support Mondale, but now I'm for Hart," said Richard Tvali, after hearing Hart address students at Birmingham Southern College. "I like his electability. Mondale can't beat Reagan. Hart can."

A week is a long time in politics, as Harold Wilson once said. A month can be eternity. At the beginning of February, during a campaign swing through New Hampshire, I caught up with Hart at a restaurant in the seaside town of Portsmouth. He was billed to give a press conference, but his 10-strong secret service entourage outnumbered the press by two to one. No one then seemed very interested in Gary Hart or his "New ideas". The American media had already decided Mondale's appointment as Democratic nominee, and Hart was seen as making a trial run for a more serious presidential effort in 1988.

Two weeks later I spent a day travelling with him around Iowa, on the eve of that state's caucuses. For the first time, his staff had chartered a plane to enable him to make as many campaign stops as possible before voting started. It was small (16 seats, four of which were empty) compared with the 100-plus seater being used by Mondale and Senator John Glenn, and two American journalists had to put down the money for a deposit because Hart's

campaign staff did not have sufficient funds.

Nevertheless, Hart's switch to air transport (he had previously used a van, dubbed "air van one") was a signal that his campaign was beginning to take off.

The press and public started to pay attention to Hart after he finished second in Iowa. By the time he reached New Hampshire a week later for some last-minute campaigning, he could hardly walk down the main street of Manchester because of the elbowing crowd of pressmen who surrounded him. Hart had suddenly become "a phenomenon". He has now joined the big league. He has a 727 jet on long-term charter and a regular press accompaniment of around 70, which this week expanded to well over 100 as interest in the race took root.

Everything he now says or does is filmed, recorded, noted down.

Hart's campaign staff have valiantly tried to cope with this explosion of interest in their candidate. New phones have been installed at campaign headquarters above a cinema in one of the seedier parts of Washington, but they are woefully inadequate to deal with the pledges of money and support now flooding in.

More staff are being hired. But for the moment, Hart's immediate entourage consists only of his press secretary, Kathy Bushkin, and two trip organizers, occasionally reinforced by campaign manager Oliver "Pudge" Henkel, and the reputed Swedish behind Hart's success, pollster Patrick Caddell.

Success has induced a subtle but significant change in the 47-year-old senator from Colorado. His past reputation was of a coldly intellectual technician, an ersatz Kennedy but with none of the former president's eloquence or passion.

"Success liberates emotion," he commented recently. It has also freed a sense of humour which sides insist always existed, but until now has remained well hidden. When his voice choked with emotion while addressing supporters after his New Hampshire victory, he joked: "I'd better not go on. I might lose my

cold and aloof image, and we don't want that."

Success has made Hart more self-confident, less awkward, more relaxed. His speeches are more assured. Often punctuated with extemporized jokes, his responses to questions are brief and to the point. He easily repels the poison darts now being hurled at him by Mondale, taking care not to respond in kind.

In last Sunday's edition of the David Brinkley current affairs programme on ABC TV, it was Hart who appeared presidential and Mondale who looked like an alien. In a television age when image is what matters most, Mondale's carefully-nurtured impression of his own invincibility has been shattered by Hart, probably beyond repair.

Kennedy's mantle is now beginning to fit more snugly around his shoulders. He looks the part, frequently using Kennedy mannerisms. He sounds it, too. He recently started a speech with a phrase taken from Kennedy's inaugural - "The torch has been passed to a new generation..."

Although his performance has improved, his basic message remains the same as it has been since he launched his campaign a year ago: old versus new. "We need a new generation of leadership with new ideas," he intones at every school, airport and shopping arcade he stops at. Sometimes he elaborates on his ideas for industrial policy, military reform, education or arms control. They are not particularly new, but that is not the point. What he is trying to do, and succeeding, is to portray both President Reagan and Mondale as leaders of a generation whose time has gone. He is the standard bearer of the generation that was still reaching maturity during the trauma of Vietnam and Watergate. Their time has come.

Whether it has or not remains to be seen. But the motto of the army training school in Huntsville, which Hart visited on Wednesday, seemed appropriately prophetic: "Follow me thru the threshold to the future." Hart is at that threshold.

David Watt

Nato: squaring up to the realities

The necessity of having to say something about Nato seems to bring out the worst in politicians and pundits. Either they resort to hackneyed tactics of the "common sense" and "hard values" variety or they go into a frenzy of doom and gloom about the erosion of western defences, the barbarian hordes at the gates and the necessity of a radical restructuring of the entire edifice.

The first strategy was exemplified by President Reagan in his thirty-fifth anniversary article on this page on Tuesday. A beautiful case of the second was Dr Henry Kissinger's largely preposterous article in a recent *Time* magazine.

On reading these articles one is driven to the conclusion that the most serious thing wrong with the alliance is in fact that no prominent political figure will get up to challenge these two stereotypes. Our democratic leaders seem unable to combine the two quite true propositions - first that the alliance really does have some fundamental problems to solve and secondly that it is actually in reasonably good shape.

The usual presumption is that people will lose confidence if you say the first, and that they will become complacent and refuse to be taxed for necessary defence expenditure if you say the second.

The truth is not really so difficult for ordinary voters on both sides of the Atlantic to grasp - or to accept - if only the politicians proceeded from some obvious basic positions:

1. We - that is both Europe and the US - need considerable conventional defences against a huge and rapidly increasing Soviet capability.

2. The US and Europe collectively need some nuclear capability in order to hedge against the possibility of the Russians reneging on their pledge not to use nuclear weapons first. We also need some safeguard in case conventional defences break down in the face of these sudden and overwhelming conventional attacks.

3. There is a balance between the extent of our reliance on nuclear weapons and our willingness to depend on conventional weapons. In other words, if we can keep the Russians out by conventional means, we need nuclear weapons less; if we can't, we will need them more.

4. Much dispute exists as to whether the Soviet Union does have the capacity to launch an overwhelming conventional attack. Dr Kissinger and other Washington hawks say Nato's conventional forces, including five American and three British divisions, are hopelessly inadequate and we should therefore have to resort to first use of nuclear weapons rather early in a war. General Rogers, the Supreme Allied Commander, says another 4 per cent on Nato defence budgets annually should enable us to hold the position. Other excellent authorities say that while a certain amount always can and should be done to modernize and improve Nato forces, it would even now be a highly risky proposition, from the Russian point of view, to attack them.

5. There is, and has been since 1949, some divergence of interest between Europe and America on how to defend against a Soviet conventional attack but on the whole this is less than it was. To oversimplify matters the logical

American order of preferences is (a) that the attack should be deterred by Soviet fears of nuclear annihilation; (b) if that fails, that the attack should be contained by conventional means but at least possible; (c) if that, in turn, fails, nuclear exchanges on the battlefields of Europe should not escalate immediately to inter-continental level.

The first of these preferences has been undermined by the arrival of nuclear parity between the super powers, the last by the general admission that the Russians would probably escalate very fast after the nuclear threshold had been crossed. That puts a lot of American weight on the conventional option.

Europe has always agreed on the necessity for conventional forces to deter and fight a war, but has always wanted to avoid a costly conventional conflict, let alone a war with local nuclear weapons that would devastate Europe. The American nuclear deterrent is supposed to prevent this, but if it fails, the best kind of war for Europe is one in which the super powers exchange a nuclear fusillade over our heads. This now being implausible, our interests converge with the US upon the conventional defence option.

The morals to be drawn from all this seem to me reasonably clear and reasonably optimistic: first of all, it is an obvious aberration to stuff western Europe full of theatre nuclear weapons. There is no real advantage in it for anyone.

Second, it is obviously in everyone's interest to increase expenditure on conventional forces to the point at which we can be reasonably confident of avoiding being overrun without recourse to nuclear weapons. Perhaps we are at this point already, perhaps not. But in any case we need a much franker examination of the Soviet threat than any so far vouchsafed to public opinion and a much better transatlantic consensus on the subject than has so far been achieved.

Third, if this expenditure is to be undertaken it must be an integrated exercise. It is unrealistic to talk of a nice division of labour - Europe taking responsibility for conventional defence, America taking a responsibility for care of the nuclear side.

The Americans are too heavily committed in Europe for them to afford to lose control of events at the conventional level; to do so would be to risk control on the nuclear level as well. A serious withdrawal of American troops if the Europeans do not come up to scratch would simply lower the nuclear threshold to the American disadvantage, and the threat - implied, for instance, in Dr Kissinger's article - is an empty one.

Finally the difficulties of the West do not really proceed from a divergence of ultimate aims between the two sides of the Atlantic. We all want to keep the Russians out as surely - but also as cheaply - as possible. If "neutrality" means wanting something else, there is remarkably little neutrality in Europe. What we are really arguing about is money and perceptions of security. It is the business (and it is supposed to be the skill) of politicians to see that the first is negotiated. And that the second converges from both sides upon reality.

Philip Howard

Six golden rules for the lit crit bit

From the Literary Editor

My dear Oliver, Thank you for sending me your unsolicited review. You are not wrong in your supposition that I receive quite a lot of such things. A complete drawer in my filing cabinet is full of solicitations from would-be reviewers, couched in every style from the peremptory to the servile, and of photocopies of their cuttings. On days when I am feeling strong I browse through them, and murmur: "O wad Pow'r the giftie us to read ourselves as others read us." On occasions I have found a good new reviewer unsolicited out of the post, but not often, not often.

How crafty of you to have got hold of so early an advance copy of the new Freddy Forsyth. I am glad that you are enthusiastic about it. You are not related to him, are you? Forgive me for asking. But one of the functions of literary editors is to have books reviewed without spite or favour. We have to try to keep the log-rolling by friends and the prosecution of vendettas by enemies out of the Books Page. Consequently, we have to resist the hype of publishers, the network of agents, the counterproductive guff of publicity agents (they always omit from the tidal wave of hyperbole such crucial facts as the publication date of the book), the blandishments of colleagues, the reproachful looks of friends, and even, dear boy, the flattery of nephews.

I am delighted to hear that you are thinking of a career in literary journalism. It is a good life, and an important work. You ask for advice. Here is some, given like a Dutch Uncle.

1. Next time you write a review, do borrow a typewriter. As things go these days, you have an elegant, and in pans legible, hand. But it takes more time to read than a typescript. I had to part regretfully with one of the most foremost philosophers of our generation as a reviewer because I could not afford the day's work required to decipher the Linear B of his handwriting, a palimpsest scrawled spikily on both sides of a page torn from an exercise book. He made even Angus Wilson's manuscript look plain sailing.

2. Do look to start each page with a new paragraph. With scissors and

Prittstick I am pretty good these days at sticking together articles in self-contained chunks suitable for the compositors. But it is not work for which I am suited by training or temperament.

3. I can see that the new Forsyth is a rattling good yarn. But are you sure that you are wise to give a complete blow-by-blow of the plot? I suspect that part of the attraction of the genre is suspense about what on earth is going to happen next. Your review leaves no stone unturned.

4. The converse fault to number 3 is for the reviewer not to have read the book at all, but to give us his or her opinions on the subject. I know that Sydney Smith is supposed to have said: "I never read a book before reviewing it. It prejudices one so." But only Sidney Smiths and other peacock reviewers can get away with that line. I have had to get rid of professional reviewers for dropping the *Times* into libel actions and corrections by demonstrably not having read a book to the end.

5. How long do you imagine your review is? I have not had time to do a word-count. But eight closely written foolscap pages cannot amount to fewer than 2,000 words. The lead to review on *The Times* Books Page can seldom be more than 1,000 words long, alas. Study your market, dear boy. The impression that you have not taken the trouble to read your prospective employer gets you the opposite of the modern (and misunderstood, and rude) term, a Brownie point.

6. The primary purpose of book reviews in the serious press is not (contrary to the wistful belief of the trade) to sell books, or to act as a consumer service, admirable though both these purposes are. It is to engage in the national debate over the most important intellectual events of the week, the books that are published.

So, dear boy, this is what we call in the trade a rejection slip. I return your script, fantastic though it is. I also return your cuttings from the *College Chronicle*. They are jolly good. You must now concentrate on getting good grades in your O levels. I look forward to our next meeting. With love from your Dutch Uncle.

Despite the damage they cause, Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary (left), has recommended a cut in heavy lorries' tax liability. John Wardroper urges the Chancellor (right) to resist



Juggernauts: the faulty arithmetic Lawson must reject

Civil servants always like to puzzle their masters with what looks like science. Such terms as "PCU-kilometers" and "standard axes, average laden" mean little to Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, and still less to Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor. This is convenient for officials in Ridley's department who have put up proposals to reduce the tax liability of the vehicles they most favour, juggernaut lorries, by nearly £1,300 a year each.

These proposals have now been passed on, with Ridley's blessing, to Lawson, now working on his Budget sums.

The matter at issue is this: what share should class of vehicle pay of the money spent (about £3,200m this year) on building and maintaining the roads? The average car-owner pays in licence fee and fuel tax nearly three and a half times what he is estimated to get out of the roads. What of the greatest road-damager, the 32-ton lorry? Last year the Transport Department reckoned that it was falling short by £880. Over the past 10 years, by the department's reckoning, the tax shortfall of the whole fleet of 32-tonners has totalled (in current prices) well over £1,000m - a huge hidden subsidy.

The department is pledged to see that all classes of vehicle meet their "road track costs". The lorry operators' lobbies, the Freight

Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association, fearing a big tax rise for the 32-tonner, went to the civil servants and argued that it was in fact being charged too much. The civil servants produced a consultation paper (very narrowly circulated) that delighted the associations. It shifted £80m of costs from the 32-tonner on to cars and other vehicles.

According to Department of Transport methodology, most of the cost of building roads is allocated, for tax purposes, among vehicles according to their assumed effect in the traffic stream - their "passenger car unit" rating. Years ago the department ordained that the average lorry equalled two cars. ("One has to choose a figure," a frank civil servant told me. "We plumped for two.") Starting from that average, the department extracted a precise-looking figure for the 32-ton lorry: 2.912. But now, by a mathematical process as yet undisclosed, it has found that a 32-tonner equals only 2.5 cars. That little

change cuts its tax liability by £110 a year.

Another adjustment is worth £1,150. The department says that as the average 32-tonner does little of its mileage on minor roads, it should pay a reduced share of their upkeep. Outside specialists challenge this. They say it ignores the fact that when a top-weight lorry runs on thin minor roads it does much more damage, mile for mile.

The damaging effect of big lorries in the real world of shaky bridges and lane closures is, indeed, not fully reckoned throughout the cost calculations. The department bases its "damage factor" figures on what an annual sample of lorry operators say their lorries are carrying. Lorry men, filling in official questionnaires, do not confess to illegal overloads. The gap between fiction and reality can be large: if a lorry axle carries one ton over the legal limit it does nearly 50 per cent more damage.

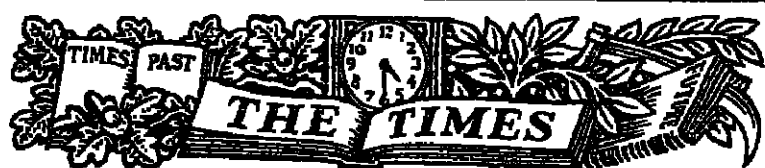
The department has quantities of computerized figures on overload-

ing. Analysis of data from sites on the M1 and A2 has shown that the damage being done by 32-ton lorries was 77 per cent greater than what the department assumes for tax purposes. Yet the department says it cannot see how to count any sum whatever for overloading.

One proposal that would have added a little to the lorries' tax liability was that something should be included for the cost of accidents - a move that has been urged for years. Lorries, which are involved annually in accidents that kill 900 people and injure thousands more, were to be made liable for a modest £8m. The Freight Transport Association objected. The department dropped the idea.

That puts accidents back in the same category as other uncalculated costs: noise, pollution, vibration, underground damage. But here Nicholas Ridley offers a hint for Nigel Lawson. He says the social and environmental costs of lorries "should be reflected by some margin between allocated road costs and tax rates, particularly for the heaviest vehicles".

So Lawson can maintain his revenue from the juggernauts by making that tax margin a healthy one; and then can press for something the Transport Department has so far resisted, an independent inquiry into its calculations.



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HOW TO JUDGE THE BUDGET

Despite Mr Nigel Lawson's valiant attempts to convince us he believes Budgets should be boring, expectations are riding high for March 13. It has become increasingly clear that it will display Mr Lawson not just as a financial conservative, but also - on the tax side - as an economic radical. Judgment on the Budget must depend on how well he marries these two ambitions.

There will be three elements to this Budget, each of considerable importance. The most unusual will be the green paper on public spending, with a time-horizon in the 1990s. The second - running nearly to the end of the 1980s - will be the Government's new medium-term financial strategy. The third, with the shortest fuse of all, will be a set of tax changes for 1984-85.

It is already possible to trace the outlines of the first two. The green paper, it seems, will not be satisfactory. It will be neither a clear statement of government intentions, nor a sufficiently detailed breakdown of the longer-term trends in public spending to inform sensible argument about what those intentions should be. Only a cursory welcome would be due to such a reluctant effort to open up the debate on public spending plans, along with a request for greater effort in the future.

On the other hand, the new financial strategy - which will embrace the first half of the period covered by the green paper - is very much a statement of intent. Ever since the original strategy, unveiled by Sir Geoffrey Howe in 1980, began to fall apart, the Treasury's technique each year has been to make do and mend. Economic recovery

has now brought the Government back broadly on that 1980 track for public borrowing, inflation and even output - a fact of which Mr Lawson, much involved in the original strategy, will no doubt remind us on Tuesday.

But there is one critical respect in which the Government is not back on track, with implications for both his new strategy and his immediate tax plans. Unemployment is far higher than the Government ever envisaged in 1980, and the latest figures make it far from clear it is even now obeying the Treasury's predictions and levelling off. The other side of this coin is that those still in work are grabbing an excessive share of the rise in national income: earnings are still rising dangerously faster than prices. This pattern poses severe problems for Mr Lawson in projecting a new financial path to take Britain from 5 per cent inflation to something recognizable as real price stability, while at the same time allowing headroom for real economic growth.

Since he does not believe in trying to restrain private-sector wages directly, Mr Lawson's next step must be a further cut in public borrowing, starting with the coming year, to lend conviction to his new and rather imprecise monetary strategy. Fortunately, the economy seems now to be growing strongly enough to enable the Chancellor to finance this cut in borrowing out of buoyant tax revenue.

Mr Lawson should not, therefore, have to repeat the concealed failure of the past five years, which was to achieve a reduction in the real level of

public borrowing merely by ratcheting tax revenue up to close the gap with a rising total for public spending. But the rise in unemployment that kept public spending on the increase has mopped up the North Sea oil bonus that the Tories had hoped to use to finance tax cuts.

Thus Mr Lawson's reputation as a tax-reforming Chancellor cannot be based on the soft option of easy tax cuts all round. He is forced by his own strategy into the politically harder task of robbing Peter to pay Paul, striving for a fairer tax system in the certain knowledge that change is going to make some people worse off. That is neither impossible nor inequitable; but it needs a good deal of strategic planning to command acceptance, and the Chancellor's pre-Budget manoeuvres have caused some unease. That there are glaring distortions in our tax system, starting with the muddle of income tax and national insurance, which is compounded by a bizarre collection of personal tax reliefs, would be widely accepted. Special pleading by those financial institutions which have made a comfortable living in the nooks and crannies of the tax system should be ignored.

But the Chancellor must not embark on serious reform with a series of smash-and-grab raids that look like a mindless attempt to scrape together the money for one post-election hand-out - or like a desperate and uncaring attempt to keep his beloved financial strategy on course. His tax planning needs to be clear as his monetary intentions: a medium-term strategy, if you like, is needed here too.

ARMED NEUTRALITY

Confirmation that a British ship was crippled by an Iraqi missile in the Persian Gulf last week has given this country an unpleasant reminder that the war between Iraq and Iran is raging as fiercely as ever, and that its effects are becoming more and more difficult to confine to those two countries alone.

The Iraqi ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday to hear a protest at his government's action and to be asked for his explanation. Some MPs would like the British Government to go further, threatening Iraq with retaliation if the incident is repeated and/or providing British merchant vessels trading with Iran with a British naval escort. Foreseeing this train of events, some people in the Royal Navy have been very unhappy about the Government's failure to protest publicly when it became known last year that France was lending Iraq Super-Étendard aircraft as a delivery system for its stock of Exocet missiles. Having suffered from this deadly combination, supplied by one of our principal allies and European partners, in the South Atlantic in 1982, the navy understandably does not relish having to confront it again in the Gulf in 1984.

The Government did indeed have grave misgivings about the Super-Étendard affair, and made them known quite forcefully, if politely, to the French. The French listened equally politely but decided to go ahead, considering that their overriding interest, and that of the West, lay in strengthening Iraq's self-confidence and enabling it to avoid defeat. Precisely what restrictions on the use of the aircraft they imposed on Iraq, if any,

remains a closely guarded secret. The heat-seeking missile that hit the *Charming* last week may not have been an Exocet, and if it was it was not necessarily fired from a Super-Étendard.

The danger of a British naval vessel being attacked again with these weapons is not, however, the only or even the best reason for Britain to avoid making this a *casus belli* with Iraq. For the answer which the Iraqi ambassador will have given to the Foreign Office is very easy to imagine. He will have pointed out that Iraq's own access to the Gulf has been blocked by Iran since the beginning of the war in 1980. No British ship has attempted to run this blockade, and no British naval escort has been offered to any merchant vessel that might do so. Now that Iraq is trying to impose a similar blockade on Iran, through attacks on neutral ships approaching Iranian ports, it would be an act of apparent partisanship, on the Iranian side, for Britain to use naval force to interfere.

Partisanship on the Iranian side might perhaps have been justified at the beginning of the war, when Iraq was clearly the aggressor. It could hardly be justified now that Iranian troops are fighting on Iraqi soil. While Ayatollah Khomeini rejects any peace proposal that does not include the deposition of the Iraqi President, whatever one thinks of President Saddam Hussein - and this newspaper has had plenty of harsh things to say about him in the past - there can be no reason why Britain should give even indirect help to the Ayatollah in his attempt to extend to Iraq the kind of regime described on page 11 of this

issue: a regime which even the Secretary-General of the United Nations, normally constrained to reticence about the internal affairs of member-states, has called to account for its violations of human rights.

There is of course the fear that, if Iraq succeeds in imposing a blockade on Iranian ports, Iran will carry out its threat to close the Strait of Hormuz - in which case naval action by outside powers will become necessary in any case. But that is not an argument for taking naval action against Iraq now, for two reasons. First, it is far from certain that Iraq will succeed in its blockade, and it is not clear as yet that Iraq is even attempting seriously to interdict Iranian oil exports. The latest attacks have not been on oil tankers but on ships bringing Iranian imports.

Secondly, there would be much stronger justification for resisting any Iranian attempt to interfere with the shipping of non-belligerent states - which is what closure of the Strait would be - than for resisting an Iraqi attempt to interfere with shipping bound for Iran, which is unquestionably a belligerent. If naval action to thwart a blockade of Iran is seriously considered, then it should be undertaken to break the blockade of Iraq as well, in other words to impose a ceasefire in the Gulf and allow free passage through it for the trade of both parties to the war. That is something which could perhaps be undertaken by a UN force, as suggested yesterday by Dr David Owen, or by an Anglo-American force as the prime minister implied. It is certainly not something Britain could undertake alone.

THE NOBLE ART OF BRAIN DAMAGE

Boxing has a long history often invested with glamour. It is seen as a trial of courage and strength, a producer of heroes, a ritualization of the combats by which mankind has developed. It has enabled a few exceptional individuals to escape from poverty and racial discrimination and rise to wealth and fame. It is held to have practical value in developing character and skill in self-defence. It is enjoyed by many spectators. And it earns a lot of money for some businessmen.

Yet boxing is the only sport which consists in the trading of blows. Injury is common in other sports but it is incidental to the main purpose of the sport. Either it is accidental, or, if deliberately inflicted, against the rules. Only in boxing is it legitimate, even praiseworthy, to hurt someone on purpose. This is why it is put in a moral category of its own and why so many people wish to ban it, even though the numbers at risk are small.

The British Medical Association has now provided a great deal more ammunition for those

who have been arguing for years that boxing is more dangerous than is usually assumed. New research assisted by modern scanning machines shows that damage from repeated blows on the head is cumulative and normally irreversible. Even mild concussion can cause small amounts of permanent structural damage. Each subsequent blow increases the damage, which can now be detected long before it manifests itself in outward symptoms, such as slurred speech, uncoordinated movements, and more acute neurological disorders. Amateurs are as much at risk as professionals. What matters is not the number of knockouts, or even necessarily the strength of the blows, but the number of blows and the direction in which they drive the head.

For many people this will be all the evidence they need to prove that boxing should be banned, but this would be an unwarranted interference with individual liberty. It is perfectly legal to damage oneself with legal to damage oneself with alcohol, nicotine and other permitted drugs. It is even legal

to commit suicide. Boxing is voluntary for those who receive the damage as well as for those who inflict it. If people wish to damage their brains it is not the business of the state to intervene. There was a good case for making people wear seat belts in cars because of the very large number of injuries that could be avoided and the significant savings that could be made in caring for the injured. Boxers are a small minority of consenting adults who do no one else much harm if they wish to addle their brains.

However, there are two aspects on which the state ought to act. First, it should ensure that boxers are fully aware of the damage they are doing to themselves. A serious health warning should be attached to boxing as to cigarettes. The BMA suggests that boxers should sign a form of informed consent similar to that given to patients prior to major brain surgery. This is well worth considering. In addition boxing, like alcohol, should be banned in schools and among all minors, who cannot be expected to weigh up the risks for themselves.

Head teachers on probation

From the General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers
Sir, Last Friday (March 2) you published letters from three members or ex-members of the teaching profession, two of whom supported Sir Keith Joseph's proposals for a probationary period for head teachers on first appointments.

The two teachers who supported Sir Keith's ideas seem to think that this proposal would have widespread support amongst members of the teaching profession, though one wonders whether they would be quite so keen if it was suggested that deputy heads, senior teachers and heads of departments were the subject of similar probationary periods.

My association's opposition to Sir Keith's ideas is not based on self-interest, as one of your correspondents alleges. We oppose these ideas because we believe them to be unworkable and unnecessary, for the following reasons:

1. Newly-appointed heads are unlikely to uproot themselves and, where relevant, their families and move to a new appointment knowing that they were subject to a probationary period.
2. Sir Keith has stated that, if they fail the probationary period, their new employer could find them another senior post. I regard this as very unrealistic, not only because they would be "tainted" with the reputation of having failed probation, but the senior posts are just not available in the present financial circumstances faced by the vast majority of local education authorities.
3. The sort of lack of competence which we are all concerned about does not necessarily become evident in the first two years. Indeed, from my own personal knowledge of quite a large number of cases which I have dealt with over a number of years, I can safely say that the heads in difficulty in terms of managing schools have run into difficulties after they have been in post for some years.
4. It is by no means uncommon for a head to be appointed and given the job of changing essential aspects of the policies pursued by his/her predecessor. I believe very strongly that a probationary period would stifle initiative and introduce an undesirable "conservative" attitude during those crucial early years.
5. Finally, I do think it is almost insulting for people to suggest that, if a teacher has reached a senior position in the profession and is then appointed to a headship, he/she should then be put on probation. Which senior members of other professions are put on probation?

Yours faithfully,
D. M. HART, General Secretary,
The National Association of Head Teachers,
Holly House,
6 Padock Road,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex,
March 6.

Organ transplants

From Dr A. H. B. de Bono
Sir, Mr Le Vay is quite right to point out (March 5) that, as at present conceived, organ transplants may be a transitory surgical phenomenon. Having spent a number of years, over 20 years ago, working out some of the technical details, I realised that by the time the crucial rejection problem was effectively solved this knowledge would itself contribute to the control of the very disease processes that today lead to organ failure. Obviously there are exceptions.

However at the present time there are situations where, however imperfect, transplants are useful; and as a spin-off the development of new anti-rejection techniques and continuing research into immune processes which clearly have a far wider application and significance, than is generated by the "glamorous" transplant programme is clearly beneficial.

I doubt very much whether, in fact, the money saved by abolishing the transplant programme would go to fund the molecular biology research; it would probably end up in part of a missile or a few yards of crumbling motorway.

Yours truly,
A. H. B. DE BONO,
Manor Farm,
Kirklington, Oxford,
March 5.

Tom Keating as faker

From Mr F. E. McWilliam
Sir, If some people do not share Mr Milligan's enthusiasm for Tom Keating (March 5), it may be because they realize that the faker diminishes the reputation of the artist whose work he fakes.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. McWILLIAM,
84 Holland Villas Road, W14,
March 5.

Looking after staff

From Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP for Bury St Edmunds (Conservative)
Sir, - The eventual outcome of the GCHQ affair seems likely to be the establishment of a staff association, but the Government, which has proposed this, has so far given few details of what it has in mind.

May I suggest that ministers examine the background that led to a legal ban on the police joining a trade union, and that they discuss with the staff at Cheltenham, and perhaps elsewhere in our security and intelligence-gathering services, the advantages of setting up an organization along the lines of the Police Federation.

The federation by law represents the interests of policemen up to and including the rank of chief inspector in all matters of their welfare and efficiency. It negotiates police pay, rent allowances and pensions; helps

Unrepentant about the economy

From Professor F. H. Hahn, FBA, and Professor R. M. Solow, FBA

Sir, We have joined forces in commenting on Lord Bruce-Gardyne's piece (March 7) although only one of us (Hahn) was one of the 364 (the other being safely at MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Since the letter was written unemployment has increased by almost one million and when oil is excluded GDP is still below the level it was in 1979. The non-oil trade balance is almost £8bn in the red (and oil production is now at its peak). None of these events has led to claims that "we told you so" and the present modest upturn does not seem to warrant any comment either.

The original statement did not claim that there would never be another upturn. Industrial economies have fluctuated for a century and a half and no doubt they will continue to do so. The claim was "there is no basis in economic theory or supporting evidence for the Government's belief that by deflating demand they will bring inflation permanently under control and thereby induce an automatic recovery in output and employment."

We see no grounds for a change of mind. There is no good reason to think that the current upturn, such

as it is, is the automatic response to the reduction of inflation. There are many more sensible ways to account for it, some of which Lord Bruce-Gardyne mentions in his artless way and some of which - like an end to de-stocking - he does not.

It is unknown and perhaps unknowable whether the recovery will gather strength and continue. If Lord Bruce-Gardyne is so anxious to claim credit for it now, which is a little bit like taking credit for a sunny day, he will no doubt be equally glad to accept responsibility for the five years during which Government policy did, as we said, "deepen the depression, erode the industrial base of the country and threaten its social and political stability".

These imponderables reinforce the necessity of subjecting policy claims that purport to follow from economic theory to at least logical tests. This test Lord Bruce-Gardyne and some of Mrs Thatcher's more strident economic advisers conspicuously fail. This was a claim to the original letter and nothing has occurred to make it false.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK HAHN,
ROBERT SLOW,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Economics and Politics,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge,
March 7.

Church and remarriage

From Mr Donald Ellison

Sir, At a time when proposed changes in the matrimonial law are the subject of parliamentary debate and widespread public discussion, Chancellor Garth Moore's somewhat over-simplified account (March 1) of the practice of the ecclesiastical courts in matrimonial cases prior to 1857 should be put into proper perspective.

The Chancellor says that because the Church maintains the official doctrine that marriage is indissoluble, no Church court would ever grant what today we call a decree of divorce. This might lead one to believe that the ecclesiastical courts and the lawyers who practised in them were faithful to the principle of the indissolubility of marriage enshrined in Christian doctrine. This, however, is very far from being the case.

Although the ecclesiastical courts would not grant to those who sought relief from a distasteful marriage a decree of divorce, they were only too ready to grant decrees annulling marriages on utterly flimsy and far-fetched pretexts. An aura of plausibility was cast over this scandalous practice by an intellectually dishonest extension of two doctrines:

Choice of ministry

From the General Secretary of the Clearing Bank Union

Sir, How sad it is when Tim Congdon, as the economic partner at L. Messel and Co. should reduce the industrial crisis that Britain faces to the script of *Yes, Minister* (February 22).

When Frank Cousins was asked to join the Wilson Government, there were a number of ministries he could have taken, the obvious one being the Ministry of Labour, but he chose Technology because he recognised that, without sensible central planning, much of our industrial base would vanish.

Some of the industries the new fledgling Ministry of Technology examined were atomic energy, machine-tools and computers and two of the three were saved. Tim Congdon's view, if I have read him correctly, was that they, along with any other industry that does not meet a financial criterion, should be allowed to go under.

How on earth does he think the French, Germans, the Japanese and the Americans succeeded? Their ministries of technology intervened directly or indirectly to steer and bolster vital sectors of their economy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COUSINS, General Secretary,
Clearing Bank Union,
14 St Clements Street,
Winchester,
Hampshire.

Candour in Poland

From Mr R. H. G. Edmonds

Sir, Your leading article, "Tiptoeing into Poland" (February 21) states that the Polish people would be offended if, by visiting Poland, Western statesmen were to "confer favour" on the Polish Government.

As a long-standing friend of Poland I am certain that the Poles are far too intelligent to indulge in this kind of naivety. They know well that the main reasons why political leaders visit each others' countries are severely practical. And, as Lord Shackleton pointed out in his letter (published in *The Times* of February

1), that of pre-contract, by which a marriage was held to be null and void because one of the parties to it had previously promised to marry someone else.

2. That of consanguinity and affinity, by which the table of prohibited degrees in the Book of Leviticus was extended to the seventh degree.

These ingenious devices, which enabled the lawyers to obtain from the ecclesiastical courts what their clients wanted (and could pay for), were further elaborated by the Roman law doctrine of "spiritual affinity" attributed to the Emperor Justinian. It thus became possible to have a valid marriage annulled because the husband had stood godfather to his wife's cousin or, as in one case on record (that of Roger Donnington, in the sixteenth century) because the husband had, before the marriage, engaged in sexual relations with a third cousin of his future wife.

The moral of all this, I submit, is that the doctrine of the indissolubility of marriage is essentially perfectionist and, as such, unworkable for imperfect mortals.

Yours etc,
DONALD ELLISON,
27 Wheatheaf Lane,
Fulham, SW6,
March 1.

Balance in EEC

From Mr Michael Fallon, MP for Darlington (Conservative)

Sir, Pace Mr Harris (February 25), if the point of having a Labour member of the Commission was to overcome Labour hostility to the Community, it has signally failed. Despite the efforts of George Thomson, Roy Jenkins and Ivor Richard, the Labour Party moved from quibbling over the terms (1972) to open disagreement on the principle (1975) and then to outright commitment to withdrawal (1983).

As Labour must now accept continued membership, the £91.060 a year each commissioner costs the taxpayer in salaries and allowances might now be better spent on a businessman with proven managerial skills rather than on subsidising Ivor Richard's flights from Brussels to obscure party meetings up and down the country.

Commissioners must, in any case, be completely independent and neutral (article 157) and Continental convention is no excuse for not reverting to the treaty in this and in other matters.

Why not a single commissioner for each member state as the Spierenburg committee long ago recommended and which will be inevitable, in any event, after Spanish and Portuguese accession?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FALLON,
House of Commons,
February 28.

4) the pragmatic case against the policy of maintaining sanctions against Poland is now overwhelming.

As for morality, what is to prevent Western leaders speaking in Poland with the same "refreshing candour" on human rights as Mr Perez de Cuellar? This is surely implicit in the idea of East-West dialogue of which the Prime Minister is now an advocate.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN EDMONDS,
Ashburton Cottage,
43 North Road,
Highgate Village, N6,
March 1.

Perceptions of the Dimpleby dispute

From Mr Giles Smith

Sir, I write solely in my capacity as a broadcasting member of the NUJ's national executive.

Your leader, "The Dimpleby affair" (March 8), almost gets to the heart of the matter. Whatever the rights and wrongs of Mr Dimpleby's dispute with the NUJ, and however much confidence the BBC may have in Mr Dimpleby's impartiality, the danger is that some sections of the viewing community will perceive him to be less than totally impartial at this particular time and under the present circumstances. That would be damaging to the BBC's high reputation for impartiality.

It is surely not too late for Mr Dimpleby and/or the BBC to acknowledge the potential danger of that perception and for them to change their Budget programme plans. This would have an essentially secondary, but important, beneficial side effect, namely, to avoid the severest test of loyalty for many BBC journalists who have been proud to work with Mr Dimpleby in the past.

I am sure all would be proud to work with him again in the future, once his dispute with their union had been honourably resolved.

Yours etc,
GILES SMITH,
ITN House,
48 Wells Street, W1,
March 8.

The Thatcher account

From Mr Iain F MacMaster

Sir, The Editor of *The Sunday Times* is wrong in claiming that his staff were not guilty of deception when they paid money into the account of Montague Marketing Limited in order to discover details of the account.

In that they represented, either actually or by implication, that they had proper business in paying money into the account when in fact this was not the case, they were guilty of deception.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN F. MACMASTER,
30 Beaulieu Road,
Hammermith, W6,
March 7.

Jail in Bophuthatswana

From Mr E. J. Senne

Sir, During a private visit to London, I saw an article in *The Times* of February 18 about the British crumpies jailed in Bophuthatswana after pleading guilty to the theft of large sums of money in Sun City. Your correspondent quotes from a letter, which alleges that these men were not able to see consular officials and luridly suggests the "physical molestation of the women", and that one of the male accused had been "almost physically raped by five men".

All of these allegations are untrue. The facts are:

Both the British Vice-Consul (Mr L. J. Weldon) and his USA counterpart visited the Republic of Bophuthatswana and were given access to their nationals. None of the women complained to the authorities about being physically molested. None of the men complained about being "almost raped". There were complaints about food; however, I would point out that the prison diet is approved by both our Department of Health and the International Red Cross; other white prisoners have not complained.

The Republic of Bophuthatswana is an entirely non-racial country, and all prisoners in our jails are treated alike. We regret that British criminals feel they should have preferential treatment.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. SENNE,
Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
Private Bag X3102,
Mafikeng 8670,
Bophuthatswana,
February 22.

Stopping 'The Times'

From Mr Robert L. Huxham

Sir, You do right to confess your servitude to the trade unions and to express your shame in your first leader today, (March 1). But surely shame is not enough. Why don't you do something about it?

Throw off your shackles by going non-union, which would enable you to eliminate overmanning and restrictive practices and make you immune from "days of action".

The *Nottingham Post* has done it successfully and surely what a provincial evening newspaper can do should not be beyond the Thunderer.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT L. HUXHAM,
89 Gloucester Place, W1,
March 1.

Cross words

From the Reverend E. M. Burgess

Sir, Dr Charles Cruickshank, in his appeal for examples of lexicographical dry humour (February 6) will find much satisfaction in browsing in the pre-1972 editions of *Chambers's Twentieth Century Dictionary*. They include the following definitions:

Eclair - a cake long in shape but short in duration with cream filling and chocolate or other icing; *hunch* - a restaurateur's name for an ordinary man's dinner; *restoration* - renovations or reconstruction (sometimes little different from destruction) of a building, painting, etc; *noose* - a snare or bond generally, especially hanging or marriage; *wamp* - a featherless bird of prey.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL BURGESS,
Duloe Rectory,
Liskeard,
Cornwall.

THE ARTS

Cinema

The bomb, sex, Berlin: Hitchcock beats all

Testament (PG)

Gate, Notting Hill: Gate. Bloomsbury

Flight to Berlin (15)

Chelsea Cinema, Camden Plaza

Vertigo (PG)

Plaza, Electric Screen, Portobello Road

Love Streams (15)

Premiere, Shaftesbury Avenue

Risky Business (18)

Circus, Classic Tottenham Court Road: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue; and others.

Hollywood first began to speculate on the nuclear holocaust at the height of the first Cold War. In 1951, with Arch Oboler's *Five*. Subsequent and more sophisticated films followed: *On the Beach*, *Dr Strangelove*, *Fail Safe*. Later we have had *War Games* and *The Day After*. *Testament*, though, is the first nuclear disaster film made by a woman; and the director, Lynne Littman, herself feels that a woman's approach is necessarily different from a man's.

"I think all mothers experience a feeling that boils down to: 'We're not giving life in order to watch our children die'... while men seem

to get involved in debating the logistics of nuclear warfare".

The script is from a story by Carol Amen, which appeared in a feminist magazine. There are no politicians or scientists or nuclear hardware in sight. There are no preliminaries to the disaster, and after it no longer any communications to tell the people what has happened and where. It could be war, or a dreadful error, or terrorism.

This is probably how it would be. Ms Littman is unsparingly realistic in documenting the gradual effects of social disintegration. Hamelin is as nice a little town as ever existed outside TV soap opera, full of busy, friendly folk. At first they rally bravely, with democratic meetings in the church and orderly plans to conserve resources and maintain calm and normality. But the best intentions are no proof against the panic that comes with the daily spread of famine, sickness and death. Nerves break, and people must defend themselves against their neighbours with guns.

The focus of the story is one family: a mother (played with fine unsentimentality by Jane Alexander) and her three children. The husband is away from home at the moment of the catastrophe, and is lost, somewhere out there. The woman watches two children die; yet along with her elder son, forced to sudden maturity, she somehow still clings to the memory of happiness and moral values. This is the lifeline of optimism in Ms Littman's devastating vision. It is tough but essential viewing for times when it is easy to forget that politics are people. The film opens at the Gate-Notting Hill and Gate Bloomsbury, not, as stated on this page on Tuesday, at the Plaza.

Christopher Petit is a director whose films - *Radio On*, *An Unsuitable Job For A Woman* and now *Flight to Berlin* - command a lot

of sympathy. Petit began his career as a serious and dedicated critic, and brings the same fervour to film-making. He is in reaction against a British cinema which he sees restricted by literary preoccupations and "good taste": he wants to be a European director.

Flight to Berlin confirms, however, the inward-looking quality of his work. He is so devoted to the craft that his films are really about making films and nothing else. It is a valid approach, but limits the audience to those who share his preoccupations.

No wonder then that in *Flight to Berlin* the only motive for events and people often seems to be that they are like other films. The film begins with all the premises of a thriller: a girl, who like some Hitchcock innocent, flees to Berlin under suspicion of murder. But Petit comes from a generation that thought that telling stories was somehow too obvious and easy and unworthy for films; and this narrative is quickly abandoned.

What remains, with the equivocal characters and drift of incidents, is a pastiche of 1960s European art movies. The heroine overlays her odyssey with a subjective commentary that sounds wiser if you only half-listen ("You... leave the past behind but by some strange chance you find the past still ahead of you - waiting"). Her sister (Lisa Kreutzer) is the familiar voyeur-with-camera. There is a mysterious "dealer", and Eddie Constantine as the kind of real-life icon and oracle beloved of the *nouvelle vague*, delivering sage maxims like "Keep a moving target. A moving target is always very hard to hit".

It is all *déjà vu*: the incessant cool music; the AFN newscaster heard over images of cars on the autobahns; the bar encounters, windows across courtyards, the streets in which there is inevitably some bit of comic business going on in the background. Petit has skill, style, a fine cam-



James Stewart and Kim Novak in *Vertigo*: a quarter of a century old, maybe not the very best of Hitchcock, but still as good as anything on view at the moment

eraman and the ability to find the means to make his films. All he needs now is to get out on his own.

It is a lesson to return to the 26-year-old *Vertigo*. While Petit shamelessly evades his story, Hitchcock, as he had always done, goes painstakingly about the business of an absurdly improbable melodrama. The story was suggested by a novel by Boileau and Narcejac.

Within the framework of the melodrama and a bright, superficial script, Hitchcock still could find the means to explore the curious depths of the psyche which fascinated him professionally and tormented him privately. The trick is in the perfect skill, deceptively easy, with which images and actors are manipulated. Hitchcock can invent the most elaborate technical effects - the famous back-tracking zoom shots to create the effect of vertigo, or the climactic kiss which involved a whole elaborate *mise-en-scène* and

revolving platforms - and yet totally integrate them into the flow and necessity of the narrative. *Vertigo* was never the best of Hitchcock, whether in 1958 or 1984: the story remained rather silly; and the animation dream-sequence was always uncomfortable. It is still a good deal better than anything else that may currently be seen around.

Space prevents proper justice to John Cassavetes' *Love Streams*, which just won the main prize of the Berlin Film Festival, and is certainly his best film. Based on Ted Allan's autobiographical play, which Cassavetes directed on the stage, this is the director-writer-actor's first collaboration with another writer. The result is a more powerful drive to the narrative, though Cassavetes remains an indulgent self-editor, and the film is overlong at 130 minutes. It is the story of a pair of acute Californian neurotics, brother and sister, fairly destructive of others, and sustained

by a mutual love that just falls short of incestuous. Life, says the brother, is "suicide, divorce, promises broken and kids smashed". Yet life (and the film) can be funny, too.

Risky Business is the writer-director debut of Paul Brickman, who scripted Jonathan Demme's *Citizen Band*, and it has moments of the kindly irony of that film. It tells the story of an adolescent who sets out to live it up while his parents are away for a few days, and ends up turning their classy home into a brothel. There are unmistakable vestiges of an intended satire on contemporary materialism (the boy's carnal enterprise wins him a place in Princeton's business school) but a lot of it ends up as teenage titillation. Rebecca De Mornay, who plays a touching bereaved mother in *Testament* is as notable here in the role of a sharp young prostitute.

David Robinson

Television

Rampant gentility

People have been saying for some time now that London's docklands are on the up: judging by *Winter Sunlight* (C4), that is something of an understatement. The first episode of this leafy, gabled, French-polished four-parter from Linchouse Productions exuded a gentility of the sort you would have to hunt for even in the stockbroker belt.

Everybody had porcelain faces and porcelain voices, with the exception of Alice, who swore, and who was quite rightly bundled off straight away to an eventide home. Everyone else, of course, had Problems (the stuff of drama): stifled hopes, prying neighbours, illicit affairs, algebra. Everyone else, right down to soulful young Mick, 13, seemed older than Alice, and to be having much less fun.

Felicity, drawing her antique wedding dress on over her (giggle) suspenders, tried to put a brave face on things: "Marriage doesn't have to be forever, though right now I want it to be - and so does he."

For Leo, big in local government, and suffering clandestinely from 21-year itch, tired complaints about unfairly shared housework were a routine problem: "Don't give me the women's thing, Jane."

They really did talk like that, and they acted like it, too: heavy bouts of scene-setting, much tasteful bandying of each other's names, like a new, middle-class version of *The Archers* getting into gear. The director, Julian Amyes, was responsible a couple of years ago for a wonderfully gutsy adaptation of *Great Expectations*. Alas, he is here working under the aegis of a former producer of *Coronation Street*: these four episodes could be the thin end of a wedge.

It never rains but it pours. Last week, in *The Other Half*, we had Sir Angus Wilson and his friend Tony Garrett proving that a homosexual marriage could be as pleasant and even as socially acceptable as any heterosexual one. Last night's edition of *Forty Minutes*, entitled *Demelza's Baby* (BBC 2), invited us into the homely bosom of a happy family, both of whose parents were women. (The welfare state would presumably designate it a one-parent family, drawing a tasteful veil.)

Demelza, who pounds the bongos for an "Afro-Cornish" band (playing Latin-American music), found herself accidentally bed one night with a chap, and little Morgan (as in Morgan le Fay) was the result. She and her mate Judy were shown bringing up their tiny friend, Demelza: "It's the best thing that ever happened to us, having a baby."

Judging by the intelligent devotion with which young Morgan was treated, it seemed quite a good thing to happen to a baby, too.

Michael Church

Coliseum season

The ENO are standing by their policy of introducing the maximum possible number of new productions to the repertoire each season. In 1984/85 there will be nine productions to add to 13 revivals, and a number of them will be of unfamiliar works.

Janacek's *Osud* (Fate) gets its English stage premiere in a double bill with Kurt Weill's first setting of a Brecht text, *Muhomov's Songs*, on September 8. There is another English stage premiere on December 30: Tchaikovsky's *Mazeppa*. Handel's *Yerres* (conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras) comes in on February 23, the composer's birthday. And on May 15 there will be another birthday celebration: the first ENO staging of Sir Michael Tippett's *A Midsummer Marriage* on the day he reaches 80.

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Gallery

Outsiders' approaches to Venice



Scirocco by Ralph Curtis

While the splendid exhibition at the Royal Academy celebrates what can justifiably be called the golden age of Venetian painting, in Venice itself, at the Museo Correr, there is (until March 18) a fascinating exploration of *Venezia nell'Ottocento*, which could equally well be described as the city's iron age. Many of the charming cast-iron bridges erected from 1850 onwards were designed by the British engineer A. H. Neville, who had his own foundry at San Rocco, from which the bridges emerged in prefabricated sections to be assembled on site. His two most prominent bridges, over the Grand Canal, at the Scalzi and the Accademia, were both replaced in the 1930s, the latter with a "temporary" structure in wood which is now itself in urgent need of replacement.

The section covering architecture comes at the end of the exhibition, which begins with a group of allegorical depictions of Venice, mostly referring to the Austrian domination which lasted from the ignominious fall of the Republic in 1797 to 1866, when it became part of united Italy under the House of Savoy. The exhibition is subtitled "Images and Myth" and attempts, with some success, to show first of all how the fabric of the city presented itself, especially to foreign artists, and then how Venetians interpreted their own past.

Among the British artists who visited Venice during the century, Turner is the most important and the two watercolours by him which Ruskin donated to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, *The Riva degli Schiavoni* and *The Grand Canal*, are so luminously evocative that they must surely have been executed on the spot, as Ruskin himself affirmed.

Richard Parkes Bonington's approach is more strictly topographical, although he enhances his views with consciously picturesque touches, such as the exotically garbed figures in the foreground of the Manchester City Art Gallery's exquisite *Doge's Palace and the Piazzetta*, painted in Paris from pencil sketches made on the spot. The French were also drawn to the city, notably Monet, represented by his *Doge's Palace* (New York, the Brooklyn Museum of Art) and *San Marco della Salute and the Grand Canal* (London, private collection), both also begun during his only visit to the city, in 1908, and completed in his Paris studio in preparation for exhibition at Bernheim-Jeune four years later. Their broad handling and discordant colours are somewhat disconcerting in the context of the exhibition, into which a more restrained work such as Boudin's delightful *Grand Canal, the Austrian boat* fits more comfortably.

America is represented by Whistler, whose etchings bring out the melancholy of the city's myriad alleys and courts, haunted by spectral figures, working or begging, and by Sargent whose bravura manner does full justice to the baroque richness of Longhena's masterpiece in *The Entrance to the Salute* (Cambridge, The Fitzwilliam Museum).

The Venetians' own view of their surroundings oscillates

between Ippolito Caffi's meticulous and dramatically lit scenes of great animation, such as the *Serenade Before the Piazzetta* (Venice, Museum of Modern Art, Ca' Pesaro) and Guglielmo Ciardi's marvellously bleak views of the lagoon: one, from the Pasinetti collection features a tiny train puffing along the distant horizon. It is signed and dated 1867. The following year Ciardi, who was born in 1842, travelled to Florence, Rome and Naples, meeting other Italian artists and seeing works by contemporary French painters. As a result, his technique became more refined, without however any loss of vigour.

His mature style is seen at its best in a remarkable pair of hitherto unpublished works from a private collection in

Milan: *The Giudecca Canal and Gondola in the Lagoon* in both of which the architectural element is reduced to a minimum. The gondolier in the latter picture is clearly not a professional and Giuseppe Pavanello, in his catalogue entry, quotes from Théophile Gautier's *Loyage* in which he draws attention to practice not only among "young patricians" of propelling their own gondolas, but of foreigners also, especially the English, "en leur qualité de peuple nautique".

Ruskin acts as a link between two sections of the exhibition, the images and the myth, appropriately enough, it may be thought, since he contributed significantly to the diffusion of the first and the creation of the second. The first room on the second floor is dedicated to "the geniuses of Venetian painting", above all Titian, whose childhood is represented by William Dyce's famous depiction of the artist's first attempt at colour, now in the Aberdeen Art Gallery and his funeral by a vast (and rather bad) canvas by Enrico Gamba (Turin, Civic Gallery of Modern Art) together with a smaller, better version by Eugenio Moretti Larese (Venezia, private collection), while Tintoretto is shown painting a portrait of his dead daughter in a work by Leon Cogniet (Bordeaux, Museum of Fine Arts).

Venetian history is evoked by Francesco Hayez and Michelangelo Grilloletti and there is a section devoted to contemporary events, which includes Napoleone Nani's curious *Danielle Manin and Nicot Tommaseo, freed from prison, being borne in triumph, in Piazza San Marco* (Fondazione Querini-Stampalia), in which a mass of circumstantial detail is lovingly rendered. Nani's picture is dated 1886, by which time a more relaxed, looser manner was gaining favour and is best exemplified in the work of Giacomo Favretto (1849-87) who was to some extent influenced by Ciardi.

Favretto's *Landolism* (Milan, Brera), in which a back restorer is mutilating a canvas by Tiepolo for the artist but is also significant in the context of the revival of interest in the eighteenth century, pioneered by Pompeo Gherardo Molmenti, who published Tiepolo's Villa Valmarana frescoes in 1880, the year Favretto's picture was exhibited in Milan.

Jeffery Daniels

Concerts

Kirkby/Tubb/ Rooley Wignome Hall

The entwining of two equal voices, their play of dissonance and resolution, is one of the most characteristic sounds of baroque music: at the end of Monteverdi's *Peppera* or in the duets of Bach's cantatas the balance of paired voices over the reliable tread of a continuo bass sums up the contained drama of the period.

But most examples of the form are little known and singers associated with the Consort of Musick have been exploring the rich Italian and English repertory in a pair of Wignome Hall concerts: on Wednesday the sopranos Emma Kirkby and Evelyn Tubb joined Anthony Rooley. As the limits were set by the title "Vocal Duets before Handel", I was disappointed to find only a sprinkling of later music, no Cazzati, and no Steffani.

Instead there were some fascinating discoveries from an earlier period: Angelo Notari, who worked in England and invited outrageous sentiment and profits from moderation in all things. Though the broad span of the music is emotionally overdrawn for the time it occupies, this performance had an open-hearted warmth and skilfully shaded dynamics that were most affecting.

Nicholas Kenyon

Alexander Baillie Queen Elizabeth Hall

A cellist who includes the unaccompanied Sonata by Kodaly in his programme knows that technique will be measured against some of the most testing demands in the repertory, and Alexander Baillie on Wednesday was more than equal to them. His wholly expert performance had a beguiling virtuosity without flamboyance, a studied mastery in its practical application of the range of devices required which, at the same time, persuaded us

it was much more than an exercise.

Mr Baillie's tone had a generous warmth and nobility all through its range, from a solid low register in which only an occasional rasp marred its effect, to a glowing top that sang out serenely. After hearing how he contended with Kodaly, I began to think that he could be still more superb in one of the solo suites by Britten, which make as many but different demands, and resolve them into music of superior imagination to be borne in mind for a future programme, perhaps.

The cellist's regular duo partner, Kathryn Sturrock, was for some unannounced reason unable to take part: she was gallantly replaced by Piers Lane. In the circumstances there could hardly be quite the same closeness of response in performance, and in the opening Beethoven sonata, Op 69 in A, Mr Baillie gave the impression of being the more even-tempered and conversational, whereas Mr Lane seemed to prefer more heavily accented phrasing.

They were more acceptably matched in Rachmaninov, whose G minor Sonata Op 19 begins with outrageous sentiment and profits from moderation in all things. Though the broad span of the music is emotionally overdrawn for the time it occupies, this performance had an open-hearted warmth and skilfully shaded dynamics that were most affecting.

Noel Goodwin

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2.20, 4.40, 7.00, 9.15
BETRAYAL (15)
3.10, 5.10, 7.00, 9.15
ON THE HILL 935 9366
(DELSZE, PK, TUNE)
LIANNA (18)
2.20, 4.40, 7.00, 9.10
ON LINDSAY GREEN 228 3520
(ANGEL, TUNE)
THE BIG CHILL (15)
2.55, 5.00, 7.05, 9.10
ELECTRIC
(PORTUGUESE)
MUSIC 228 5
VERTIGO (PG)
1.20, 3.50, 6.20, 8.50

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 27. Dealings End Today. \$ Contango Day, March 12. Settlement Day, March 19.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

FT - ACTUARIES INDICES	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	442.63 (448.44)
500 SHARE INDEX	486.71 (485.62)
*EARNINGS YIELD	10.06% (10.06%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.59% (4.59%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.33 (12.34)
ALL SHARE INDEX	449.97 (448.12)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.78% (4.89%)
* estimated	(previous class)

[illegible]

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The crock of gold still eludes the Midland

Midland Bank has gone to great lengths to assure its anxious staff that the problems at Crocker National Bank, its Californian subsidiary, do not threaten their future. After last year's special \$107m provision, which leaves Midland Bank's 1983 pre-tax profits down from £251m to £225m, shareholders too would have appreciated a reassuring word. Sir Donald Barron, chairman, and his team were unable to provide one yesterday. They had been advised by lawyers on both sides of the Atlantic that if they answered questions on Crocker they could run into legal problems in the United States from Crocker's minority shareholders. There is irony there.

What they felt able to say was not entirely reassuring. Mr John Harris, one of the Midland directors, who was recently despatched to Crocker where he is now number two with the rank of senior vice-chairman, has been assessing Crocker's loan portfolio and establishing a new working relationship between Midland and Crocker. He has no illusions that there is much hard work still to be done.

Crocker's contribution to Midland's results was a £17m loss last year compared with a £46m profit in 1982 and in Mr Harris's words: "It would be tempting fate to predict a rapid turnaround, although we would be disappointed if Crocker did not return to profitability this year."

It is not easy to reconcile this statement with the assurances from senior Crocker executives last year that the bank's property provisions were a one-off blow and Crocker was expected to be back in profit in the first quarter of this year. The inference many City analysts are now drawing is that there will be further sizeable provisions and Crocker's performance this year is unlikely to be much to write home about. W. Greenwell for instance, which had been forecasting profits of £370m from Midland in 1984, is now expecting about £333m.

Crocker, apart, the international side of Midland's activities has suffered from heavy provisions (29 per cent higher) and the trade finance subsidiary is also still having a difficult time. Total provisions are up from £196m to £318m and as at Barclays and National Westminster, there is a sharp rise in general provision from £34m to £90m, much of that is to cover Midland's exposure to uncertain sovereign debt.

The cheerful news is on the domestic side where profits before loan interest are up by a quarter to £287m - 90 per cent of the group total. Domestic subsidiaries, including Thomas Cook and Northern Bank, have generally done better.

Efforts to cut costs in the United Kingdom are also bearing fruit. Staff numbers were two per cent lower and improved spreads and sharp rises in fees and bank charges, which all the clearers have been pushing through, have improved the picture.

Midland have been discriminating in its United Kingdom lending: domestic advances rose by seven per cent which is a slightly slower rate of growth than the other banks seem to be experiencing. This form of restraint contributes towards a stronger balance sheet. The combination of disposals and last year's capital raising have also strengthened the balance sheet ratios.

As for the dividend, Midland has cut the end-year payment to leave the year's total unchanged at 25.5p.

Deepening gloom over New York

Mr Reagan's Chief Economic Adviser, Mr Martin Feldstein, added his voice yesterday to the growing chorus of woe about the performance of the US economy, and threw sensitive markets into further shock. Mr Feldstein predicted that US first quarter growth should exceed 6 per cent at an annual rate, a percentage strong enough, to frighten any remaining bulls of US bonds who had quailed at the sight of the near-5 per cent expansion rate in the final quarter of last year.

Not surprisingly, stock and bond markets eased. The damage was by no means as severe as that inflicted by Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, in his speech on Wednesday to the US League of Savings Institutions. He offered yet more gloom about the US federal deficit ("Unfortunately people aren't talking about cutting \$50bn in fiscal 1985").

A recalcitrant Congress is the obvious target of both speeches, and the view from New York last night was that enough tactical pressure could be created to push tax-raising measures through before the April recess. Merrill Lynch, for example, is looking for a \$135 billion package covering the next three years, organized round a one-one ratio of tax increases to spending cuts.

Further out is the spectacle of significant international disruption threatened by possible sovereign default. Argentina, for one, is now well in arrears with repayments of its \$44 billion debts, and the country's Bank Advisory Committee is meeting in New York.

Scope for American manoeuvre may well be further limited by the crop of impending US economic data. The latest US money supply figures are due out overnight, analysts are shooting for a fall in M-1 of \$2 billion after a rise of \$3 billion which took the growth to very top end of the 4-8 per cent target range.

Electra's dash for the stable door

Yesterday's new Business Expansion Scheme fashioned by Electra Risk Capital bears all the signs of a horse quickly unleashed in case the stable door is shut on Tuesday. Electra is trying to raise £1.1m for the Brook Stud Company, whose business is breeding, selling and boarding thoroughbred horses. The money will be used principally to expand the stud by buying shares in "stallions of international appeal, and bloodstock which the company's directors believe will show a long-term capital profit". Significantly the offer will close and the proceeds be fully invested by April 5, just four weeks away.

It is hard to see how Brook Stud fits in with the spirit of the Business Expansion Scheme, however closely it meets the letter. The company in question was founded in 1926 and has, so far as we know, been run on a sound footing. It employs just 11 people, and there is no suggestion that the BES money will lead to new recruitment. Neither is there any claim that the money is needed for research into breeding methods.

If the Chancellor is contemplating restricting the scope of the BES for the new tax year, the Electra stable has given him some very timely ammunition.

Cadbury may seek US cash to fund expansion drive

By Jeremy Warner

Cadbury Schweppes, the big confectionery and soft drinks group, is examining the possibility of placing up to 44 million of its shares, or a maximum of 10 per cent of its issued share capital, with investors in the United States. The shares are traded in the form of American Depositary Receipts.

The chairman, Sir Adrian Cadbury, said yesterday that the group had embarked on a significant programme of capital spending on its businesses in the United States and it was considering entering the US equity market.

With about 8 per cent of the US confectionery market and a much smaller proportion of the soft drinks market, the company said that it felt it lacked the "clout" it would like in the United States. It plans to spend heavily on organic expansion of its confectionery business until it has something approaching double that share of the market.

Sir Adrian said that he saw

the involvement of American investors as a part of the company's strategy of seeking a higher profile in the US, and while he did not expect the company to achieve the dominant positions of Mars and Hershey in the US confectionery market, he did hope that Cadbury would break free of the second rung of confectionery groups with shares in the 5 per cent to 10 per cent range.

Stock market analysts expect Cadbury to be followed by a large number of British companies seeking greater involvement by American investors. BTR, the big industrial conglomerate which reports full-year profits next week, is widely rumoured to be considering a similar move to that of Cadbury.

A buoyant performance in US operations helped to lift Cadbury's pretax profits by 19.2 per cent from £89.7m to £106.6m last year. In North America, trading profits rose



Sir Adrian Cadbury, aiming to double market share

from £19.6m to £26.9m on the back of a double figure gain in the volume of sales.

Cadbury's main market in Britain was difficult last year. The group was unable to push through any price increases and there was no rise in the volume of goods sold. Even so, trading profits pushed ahead from

£51.5m to £57.3m, helped by the better productivity of the group has achieved since cutting its workforce.

The company is also hopeful that the product rationalization it started five years ago

Cadbury's Creme Eggs have proved a huge marketing success. The company managed to sell 200 million of them last year in Britain alone - four for every head of population - and exported more than 100 million to the United States. In January this year, sales were 40 per cent higher than the same month of 1983, helped by the "Conundrum" golden egg treasure hunt the group has devised.

The Cadbury share price rose 5p to 135p on the results, which were better than expected. A final dividend of 3.9p is being promised, raising the total for the year from 4.9p to 5.4p.

Sir Adrian said: "Investment in America remains a priority and other areas of expansion are the Pacific Basin and South America."

UK trade surplus falls to £2bn

By Frances Williams

Economics Correspondent
Britain's deficit on overseas trade in goods other than oil widened by a massive £5.3 billion year to £7.5 billion. The deterioration in the balance of trade in manufactures which recorded a deficit of £2.1 billion, the first since the industrial revolution, after a surplus of £2.5 billion in 1982.

The worsening trade balance, only partly reduced by a growing oil surplus, was the chief factor behind the drop in overall current account surplus from £5.6 billion in 1982 to £2.2 billion last year. A £500m deficit on visible trade - the first since 1979 - was countered by a £2.5 billion surplus on the invisible account, which includes services such as insurance and shipping.

The Government's latest forecast for the current balance of payments this year and next will be published in the Budget on Tuesday. It is expected to show a significant, if lower, surplus rather than the bare balance predicted in November, as trade prospects improve with the reviving world economy.

The private sector and state industries notched up a surplus on invisible earnings of £6.6 billion last year - a slight fall from 1982 - but the invisible account overall worsened by £700m.

Travel, civil aviation and the City all increased their foreign income, with a notable rise in insurance, particularly Lloyd's, according to the Central Statistical Office.

But the surplus on interest, profits and dividends fell as higher profits from North Sea activities and subsidiaries of overseas companies were repatriated abroad. There was also a small worsening in the deficit on government transfers, mostly due to extra payments to the EEC and more Third World aid.

Investment in overseas stocks and shares was little changed last year at £6.3 billion, but there are signs that the outflow from the financial institutions may have peaked.

Hawley seeks £34m for US purchases

By William Kay, City Editor

Hawley Group, the cleaning, leisure and security company led by Mr Michael Ashcroft, is asking shareholders for £34.3m to finance an important push into the US.

The money is to be raised through a rights issue at the rate of seven new shares for every 20 held, at a price of 80p compared with last night's market price of 93p, down 5p on the day. Officially, the cash will largely be used to reduce borrowings. However, Mr Ashcroft said yesterday: "Because we operate in fragmented markets, we have to make numerous small acquisitions. But you cannot keep

placing shares every few weeks to pay for them, so now we shall have enough cash to pay for a series of deals."

A string of such takeovers swelled Hawley almost out of recognition last year. Figures released yesterday show turnover up from £40.4m to £137m, pretax profits up from £5.3m to £14.7m, but earnings per share improved less spectacularly from 4.5p to 6.1p. Analysts are expecting £26m profits this year, without any more acquisitions.

The US expansion will be spearheaded by Hawley obtaining a share listing in New York.

TKM stakeholder named

By Our City Staff

Mr Ron Brierley, whose £150m business empire in Australia spans the operation of a railway, flour manufacturing, funeral parks and wool trading, has emerged as the man behind

that has been built up in Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn (Holdings), the troubled international trading group.

Mr Brierley, an accountant by training, is well known in

Australia for taking interests in international trading groups. His talent is said to be in spotting asset-rich, undervalued companies for acquisition.

TKM said yesterday that it had never heard of his company, Industrial Equity, before receiving news of the share stake, and it had no idea what Mr Brierley's plans for the investment were.

BA names flotation brokers

By Jonathan Davis,

Financial Correspondent

British Airways yesterday announced the appointment of two stockbroking firms which will act as its advisers in the run-up to the airline's flotation, scheduled for next year.

The two firms are Rowe & Pitman and Phillips & Drew. They will become brokers to the company and can expect to continue this role after privatization has taken place.

Hill Samuel, the merchant bank which is advising the Department of Transport on the flotation, is looking for two other stockbroking firms to act for the Government in the issue.

The sale has been provisionally scheduled for next spring, and is likely to value British Airways at between £800m and £1,000m, which will make it the second largest government privatization issue so far undertaken. The biggest being the British Telecom flotation planned for this autumn.

Whereas Rowe & Pitman have been involved in previous government issues such as Britoil in 1982, Phillips & Drew have not been involved before.

US worries hit gilts

Fears of higher US interest rates produced a flurry of nervous selling in Government securities yesterday as the dollar rallied on foreign exchange changes.

Prices fell by as much as 1/2 at the longer end and the new "tap", Exchequer, 10 per cent, 1989, opened at a small discount in first-time dealings. Dealers said investors were anxiously awaiting the latest US money supply figures.

Equities recovered from a nervous start, with the FT Index closing 2.3 up at 837.7 and the FT-SE 100 advancing 0.2 to 1055.8.

Market report, page 18

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1055.8 up 0.2 (day's high: 1056.0, Low: 1050.9)

FT Index: 837.7 up 2.3

FT-SE 100: 1055.8 up 0.2

FT All Share: 500.06 down 0.84

Bargains: 23.502

Dataseam US: 1.04

New York: Dow Jones

Industrial (latest): 1142.27

down 1.36

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones

Index: 9,959 down 61.66

Hongkong: Hang Seng

Index: 1077.55 down 13.89

Amsterdam: 167.8 down 2.3

Sydney: AO Index: 718.4

down 6.6

Frankfurt: Commerzbank

Index: 1011.8 down 3.2

Brussels: General Index

143.13 down 0.45

Paris: CAC Index: 160.7

down 1.0

Zurich: SKA General: 303.20

down 4.20

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4580 down 180pts

Index 81.1 down 0.3

DM 3.7750 unchanged

FF 11.62.00 up 0.0250

Yen 327.50 down 2.00

Dollar Index 125.4 up 0.8

DM 2.5885 up 0.0325

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4585

Dollar DM 2.5880

INTERNATIONAL

ECU £0.59085

SDR £0.724228

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):

am \$396.35 pm \$397.25

close \$396.00-\$396.50

(£271.50-272.00)

New York (latest): \$396.75

NEWS IN BRIEF

Opec likely to defend oil price

The influential monitoring committee of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meets in Vienna today, determined to maintain world stability in oil prices and output, against increasing North Sea output and Nigerian demands for increased production to earn foreign exchange.

The current strength of the pound against the dollar - all oil transactions are in US dollars - has so far made it easier for Opec to accept current North Sea output, though Britain has refused to agree a quota.

● A request from Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International to block an exchange of shares between Warner Communications and Chris-Craft Industries was refused by the Federal Communications Commission in Washington.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:

Bank base rates 8.75-9

Finance houses base rate 9%

Discount market loans week fixed 9%

3 month interbank 9 1/8-9

Euro-currency rates:

3 month dollar 10 1/8-10 3/8

3 month DM 5 1/8-5 3/8

3 month FR 16 1/8-18 1/8

US rates

Bank prime rate 11.00

Fed funds 9 1/8

Treasury long bond 97 1/2

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling

Export Finance Scheme IV

Average reference rate for interest period February 8, 1984, to March 6, 1984, inclusive: 9.373 per cent.

Pontin plans theme park

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

An aquatic theme park, with two huge water slides as key attractions, is planned for Scarborough's North Bay, opening in June at a first-year cost of around £500,000. The park is being backed by Sir Fred Pontin's new leisure group based on Kunkin Holdings.

Sir Fred, whose other most recent acquisition was the London Dungeon for £1m, is forecasting for the leisure group pretax profits of around

£500,000 for the year to next September. These are likely to grow to about £1m next year as the profit potential of acquisitions and new projects comes through, according to Sir Fred.

Negotiations are in hand for the group to get a share quotation soon.

Sir Fred, who is hoping to get an English Tourist Board grant to help with the cost, said research indicated "great success" for the park.

Dealers discount US optimism

Dollar stages technical rally

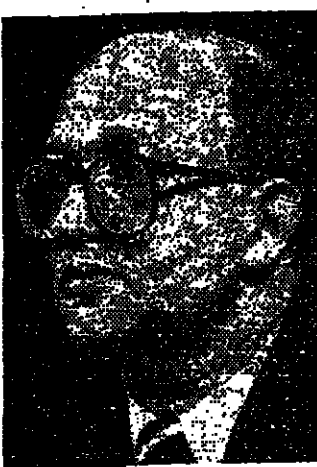
By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The dollar rose sharply on the foreign exchange markets yesterday against a background of firming dollar interest rates and indications that the US economy is still moving ahead strongly.

Dealers said the dollar's surge was a technical reaction to its recent sharp falls against other leading currencies. Since January the dollar has tumbled from DM 2.84 against the Deutsche mark and also fallen sharply against the Japanese yen. Dealers said a rebound was to be expected after such a rapid fall.

Fanning the dollar's strength was yesterday's prediction from Mr Martin Feldstein, Chief Presidential Economic Adviser, that first-quarter growth in the US economy would exceed 6 per cent at an annual rate. The trend was also helped by the recent remarks of Mr Paul Volcker, Federal Reserve Board chairman, over the dangers of the budget deficit.

However, some dealers were certain that this had not prompted any fundamental reassessment of the currency.



Martin Feldstein: growth to exceed 6 per cent

"They could have said exactly the same thing last week and the dollar would have gone the other way," one said yesterday.

The dollar closed yesterday up 3.25 pence at DM 2.5885, having touched DM 2.59 at one stage. On its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies it gained 0.8 to 125.4.

The pound was still unsettled by uncertainty over United Kingdom interest rates although it remained on the sidelines for

much of yesterday. It lost ground against the dollar closing 1.8 cents lower at \$1.4580 and its trade-weighted value fell 0.3 to 81.1. However, it finished unchanged against the Deutsche mark at DM 3.7750.

There was still no firm indication yesterday of how the other big banks would respond to the 0.25 per cent cut in base rate to 8.75 per cent announced by Barclays Bank earlier this week and since followed by the Bank of Scotland.

Midland Bank was still considering its position yesterday, according to Mr Geoffrey Taylor, chief executive. "As we see it now, there does not appear to be any justification for a downward movement." However, he said that conditions could change daily.

There is still speculation that other banks may opt for a 0.5 per cent cut to 8.5 per cent but perhaps not until after the Budget next Tuesday.

Despite sterling's recent weakness, brought on by the downward movement in interest rates, there has been no sign at all of the Bank of England coming into the markets to steady its path.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS £m, seasonally adjusted				
	Visible	Invisible	Current	Balance
1981	3652	3620	7272	
1982	2384	3167	5551	
1983	2009	2649	2049	
1982 Q1	471	636	1107	
Q2	211	816	1237	
Q3	588	649	1237	
Q4	1114	1068	2180	
1983 Q1	203	891	1094	
Q2	460	428	888	
Q3	248	801	653	
Q4	5	334	339	

Source: Central Statistical Office



John Lewis Partnership plc department stores and Waitrose supermarkets

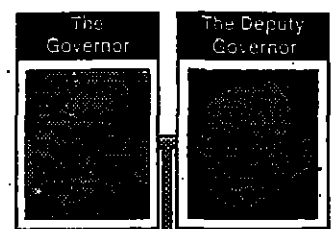
Consolidated Results* for the year ended 28 January 1984

	1983/84 £m	1982/83 £m
Sales	1072.1	922.2
Trading Profit	70.8	50.6
Interest	4.2	6.0
Pension Fund Contributions	7.7	5.8
Taxation	8.5	5.0
Preference Dividends	0.4	0.4
Surplus available for profit sharing and retentions	50.0	33.4
Partnership Bonus	25.4	17.1
Retentions	24.6	16.3

*Abridged, estimated and unaudited.

The brave new world of Leigh-Pemberton faces first real test of its authority

Sarah Hogg reports on how the Bank of England is adjusting to the winds of change in the Square Mile



Who's who in the Court of Threadneedle Street: The Governor and his deputy head a line-up of directors that includes a new generation of 'home-grown' policy-makers - the Bank's young men in the City

"I'm told I'm going to make a very important speech," the Governor of the Bank of England said to me last week, continuing his polished performance as the genial amateur. He was quite right. On Tuesday, the Bank laid out its design for living in the City of the future: one in which single capacity will have followed fixed commissions into the Stock Exchange, corporate membership will be clearly established and financial conglomerates are rising on the skyline. What is more, the future is - in the Bank's view - close at hand. The City must move fast to catch international competition.

While Britain's bankers, brokers and jobbers brace themselves against the winds of change, a parallel adjustment has to take place within the Bank. Professor Brian Griffiths, at 41 the youngest member of the Court of the Bank of England (and basking in his distinction as the first academic to be appointed a non-executive director since John Maynard Keynes), sees the one development as the natural reflection of the other.

"As the traditional way of doing things comes under challenge in all the City institutions, so change and greater openness are the proper reactions at the Bank."

But how is the Bank really changing? One shift is obvious: its top jobs are filled today with a new generation of policy-makers. The executive directors are all home-grown Bank men (though one of them, Mr David Walker, began life in the Treasury); but they are relatively young and fresh

Two of the Bank's grandees - Mr Christopher Dow and Mr John Forde - retired at the end of February. And in the Governor's chair, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, a relaxed, open style is very different from his predecessor's.

Views, naturally, differ as to how much change is for the better. There are stories of how the Bank's internationally-respected deputy governor, Mr Christopher "Kit" McMahon, and the Bank's shrewd monetary expert, executive director Mr Eddie George, have to steer their cheerful new boss round public pitfalls.

But Mr Leigh-Pemberton possesses one immense advantage, and seems to have the confidence to make use of it. He is Mrs Thatcher's chosen appointee, and, therefore, more secure in his relations with Downing Street - the inhabitants of both Number 10 and Number 11 - than his predecessor ever was.

Though Mr Leigh-Pemberton is Mrs Thatcher's man, he does not seem to be making the Bank

her creature. On occasion, indeed, quite the reverse: at meetings of the National Economic Development Council, it is said by rueful Treasury men that he has been striking a line remarkably independent of Whitehall's.

How much this reflects his own views, and how much those of the Bank's young Turks, is a matter on which his listeners are not yet clear; but here, too, there is a welcome loosening-up in Bank practice. In Lord Richardson's day, all the collective wisdom of the Bank had to be squeezed upwards, like toothpaste, to the single outlet of the Governor's rare public speeches.

A formidable drafting and redrafting process, in which the Governor was deeply involved, occupied a tremendous number of high-quality man-hours. Even those who most admired Lord Richardson's intellectual distinction will sometimes admit to breathing more freely in the easier atmosphere created by his successor.

Some of the tension, and better still the paperwork, is

said to be disappearing under Mr Leigh-Pemberton's rule.

Of course there are critics. Not everyone in the Bank gets his chance to polish every word the Governor utters before he says it. The corresponding advantage is Mr Leigh-Pemberton's pleasant readiness to act more as chairman of a board of directors able to think and even occasionally speak for themselves.

The culmination of Mr Leigh-Pemberton's chosen role of the plain man's Governor - or at least the plain clearing banker's - is his way of dealing with the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson. It is said, is quite prepared to ask Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to explain himself - a neat reversal of the normal relationship between permanent official and politician.

Different styles are born of

different problems. Lord Richardson's government covered a period of exchange rate crisis, when every word uttered by the Bank could have disastrous effect on the currency markets. Then came a phase of miserable disagreement with a green Thatcher Government, ready to blame the Bank for the failures of its naive early monetary policies.

The monetary argument was the major preoccupation of Lord Richardson's last four years, with two debt crises as side-shows. British industry's troubles in 1979-81, and the international banking crisis of 1982-84.

Now the Bank's preoccupations have changed as clearly as its personnel. There has been no pitched battle between the Treasury and the Bank over the new medium-term financial strategy Mr Lawson will reveal on Budget day: the issue has been resolved by a compromise almost wholly satisfactory to the Bank.

With two target ranges for even more different measures of monetary growth, the new strategy will permit the kind of flexibility the Bank likes, and was denied in the 1980 strategy. British industry's loan problems have eased with the recovery in profits and demand. And the Bank believes that the immediate phase of the international debt crisis is over (its expert fire-fighter, Mr Brian Quinn, has now been partially redirected towards domestic banking issues).

The Bank can never rule the line below any of its responsibilities. It is possible, for example, that the first test of Mr Leigh-Pemberton's ability to deal with the Treasury may come with the changing pattern of exchange rates this year.

There is greater, though far

from uncritical enthusiasm for such attempts to stabilize exchange rates as the European Monetary System in Threadneedle Street than there ever has been in Great George Street. But there is no sign of heat in the issue of exchange rates. The Bank's real test of authority could come in its relationship with quite a different department of government.

Changes in the City - and in the securities market in particular - are inevitably bringing the Bank into much closer contact, and potential conflict, with the Department of Trade and Industry. This is much less familiar departmental territory for the Bank (though the two chief protagonists, Mr David Walker of the Bank, and Sir Anthony Rawlinson, permanent secretary of the relevant half of the DTI, worked together in their Treasury days).

'The plain man's' governor is quite prepared to ask the Chancellor to explain himself'

The delicate issue of overlapping regulation, as financial institutions diversify, is one example of Tom Tiddler's ground between the two. But the wider issues of competition policy and the promotion of British interests in the securities business, on which the politicians have their views, will involve the Bank in some tricky negotiations.

The "catalyst" role it has chosen means it must do more than interpret Whitehall to the City, and the City to Whitehall. It means managing both ends with considerable tactical skill.

APPOINTMENTS

Deputy chairman named by Babcock

Babcock International Sir Frank Cooper has been appointed deputy chairman of the board.

The London Metal Exchange: Mr M. J. Beale, managing director of Amalgamated Metal Trading, and Mr P. J. Jevons have joined the board. Mr P. G. Smith will retire from the chairmanship on May 22. He will be succeeded by Mr J. K. Lion, senior partner of Philip & Lion, with Mr R. D. Gee, a director of BICC Cables, as vice-chairman.

East Midlands Allied Press: Mr P. J. D. Cooke has joined the board as a non-executive director.

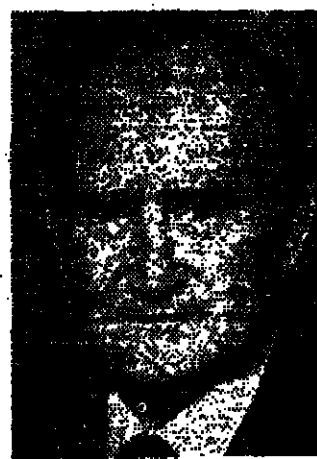
Crouch Construction: Mr Leslie Andrews has been made managing director. Mr Peter Meyer, chairman of the Crouch Group, has become chairman of Crouch Construction.

The National Westminster Bank of Canada: Mr Doug Wilson has been seconded to the bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of National Westminster Bank, as vice-president and manager of Calgary marketing office, in Alberta. He succeeds Mr Colin Conery who will be returning to Britain on completion of his tour of duty.

City & Northern: Mr John Bell has become chairman, Mr Elliott Ward, chief executive, and Mr Chris Dixon and Mr Roger Broadhurst become directors.

Cotton and Company: Mr Kenneth Terry has been appointed manufacturing director.

Balfour Beatty Construction: Mr Derrick Wilk is appointed a director. Mr John Dean, a director of Balfour Beatty Construction, becomes a director and chairman of Stewart McGlashen, chairman of Balfour Beatty Construction (Scotland), chairman of Raynesway Construction Services and a director of Balfour Beatty



Sir Frank Cooper: deputy chairman at Babcock

Homes. Mr H. Turnbull becomes a director of Stewart McGlashen. Mr John Dean, Mr Roger Stagg, Mr Anthony Merricks and Mr Roger Hacker are appointed directors of Stent Foundations.

Swan National: Mr Don McCrickard, managing director of United Dominions Trust, has become chairman.

Chemical Bank: Mr William Clark has been made head of the energy and minerals group on London, covering Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Mr Clark takes over from Mr Uwe Jahnke.

New Ideal Developments: Mr Stuart G. Ely has become a director. He will continue with his existing responsibilities as managing director of Builders Amalgamated.

Greenwood Development Holdings: Mr Wyndham Thomas has become a member of the board.

Cable & Wireless UK Services: Mr Christopher Ash-Edwards has become financial controller and Mr Michael Anas has become Telecoms product manager.

Systems Designers up 46%

By Andrew Cornelius

Systems Designers International, the fast-growing computer consultancy which came to the stock market 16 months ago, maintained its five-year record of 45 per cent year-on-year profits growth during 1983.

Group pretax profits increased by 46 per cent to £1.55m on turnover which grew by 47 per cent to £13.95m compared with the previous year.

At the same time SDI was able to recruit 125 highly skilled computer staff, partly because of the interest created by the stock market flotation, to take the total numbers employed to 425 people.

Mr Philip Swinstead, the chairman, who made a paper fortune when the company came to the market, said that prospects for SDI were "tremendously exciting."

Plans for the current year include possible acquisition of a computer company to help

build on SDI's £1m a year turnover in the United States.

The aim would be to increase market coverage there by taking over a company with access for and contacts in the US communications industry.

"We want to add our skills and expertise to a company which has links with big businesses in the US," Mr Swinstead said. There were also plans to market SDI's software products abroad and to strengthen marketing connections in the rest of Europe.

And although SDI can pay for the rapid growth of its existing businesses from the funds it generates itself, any acquisition is likely to be financed by a rights issue of the company's shares which stand at an impressive 59.5p on the London stock market, against the 210p placing price in 1982.

Income from consultancy fees during 1983 rose from £7.6m to £10.7m compared with the previous year. Software

products generated £1m (£600,000), and hardware sales £2.2m (£1.2m).

Defence contracts still account for about 45 per cent of total revenue, with the bulk of the work coming from the Ministry of Defence. However, an important breakthrough in supplying the Swiss defence ministry could help the group expand its defence contracts outside Britain.

During the year SDI won contracts for its Videotex systems from Britain, West Germany, Austria and Hong Kong.

Group administration costs increased by 38 per cent to £4.1m as SDI expanded its businesses to meet the growth in turnover. Research and development expenditure was maintained at 10 per cent of turnover.

The board is recommending payment of a final dividend of 1.6p per share, making 2.4p for the year, against 1.5p last time.

First-half profits dip at Galliford

Galliford, a Leicestershire-based industrial holding company, pushed up turnover from £33.18m to £34.92m in the half-year to December 31, but pretax profits fell from £1.37m to £1.01m. The board calls the result disappointing and blames it largely on losses in a civil engineering contract and a negligible contribution from the Singapore offshoot.

Galliford's precision engineering companies continued to trade at a loss. But the situation is already much better and there is an improvement in orders.

An unchanged interim dividend of 0.7p net a share is being paid.

Civil engineering as a whole has been a concern to the board for the last year or so, slow volume and minimal margins are still with the company. Galliford and Sons made substantial losses on one contract, work is now virtually complete.

Overall, the second half-year is expected to be better than the first - but it is doubtful that all the lost ground can be regained.

In brief

● **FIFE INDMAR** (engineer): Results for 1983 Figures in £000. Turnover 12,762 (12,209). Pretax profits 703 (729). Total dividend, net, 6.6p (6.3p).

● **MILLS & ALLEN GROUP**: Butler Harlow (Financial Futures) - part of the Mills & Allen Group - and Sheppard & Chase have entered into an informal arrangement to jointly market the contracts of LIFFE.

● **COMFORT HOTELS INTERNATIONAL**: Negotiations have been finalized to acquire a controlling interest in the Hotel Sainte-Anne, Rue Sainte-Anne, Avenue de l'Opéra, Paris.

● **FAMILY INVESTMENT TRUST**: Year to Jan 31, 1984. Total gross revenue £492,000 (£448,000). Total net dividend up from 6.3p to 6.6p a share.

● **PARINGA MINING & EXPLORATION**: Half-year to Dec 31, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 884 (670). Pretax profit 213 (94).

● **MICROFILM REPROGRAPHICS**: Half-year to Dec 31, 1983. Turnover £849,000 (£641,000). Pretax profit £102,000 (loss, £110,000). Tax nil (same). Profits for second half likely to top those of first, board reports. Interim dividend cut from 1.25p to 0.5p net a share to conserve cash for expansion and development. Company has a USM quotation.

● **WILLIAM SINCLAIR HOLDINGS**: In the half-year to Dec 31, 1983, William Sinclair, the plant breeder and seed specialist which has a USM quotation, more than halved its pretax loss to £181,000 compared with a loss of £420,000 last time. This was achieved on a turnover greatly reduced, from £15,85m to £10,03m. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.5p net a share.

● **IMPERIAL METALS** (London 163 and Vancouver): Imperial Metals has bought from Sulpetro a 24 per cent interest in Peesay Unit No 3, British Columbia, as well as a 25 per cent and a 35 per cent interest respectively in two Big Lake area wells in Alberta for Can. \$4.85m (£2.6m). Imperial's net share of revenue from the acquisition will be about Can. \$1m in 1984. Imperial and its associate, Geomex Partnerships, have also agreed to buy Sulpetro's interest in the St Albert Pooled Oil Unit in Alberta for Can. \$1.94m.

● **CORTON BEACH (HOLDINGS)**: Corton Beach reports that on March 2, Mr Frank Stansil, liquidator of Mesco Nominees, and chairman of the company, disposed of his entire holding of 1.28 million ordinary shares at 4.1p per share; £47,697 of these shares (29.99 per cent of the issued capital) have been acquired by Mr Michael Keen and the balance placed by Marsden W. Hargreave, Hale and Co. with investment clients. The Bargain has been effected under Rule 16(4) and a general offer to the other shareholders will not be required by the Takeover Panel.

● **RIGHTS AND ISSUES INVESTMENT TRUST**: Total dividend for 1983 on trust's income shares unchanged at 3.8p net a share. Consolidated gross income: £235,000 (£267,000).

About £100,000 of the losses within the electronic enclosures division was the result of a three-week industrial dispute in November.

However, sales by the division increased by 12 per cent and the improvement is continuing, according to the board.

● **COLE GROUP**: Robert Moss has bought 100,000 ordinary shares in the Cole Group, increasing its holding to 242,500 shares (8.08 per cent).

● **THE JAPANESE** ministry of transport has revised its car import system to simplify foreign application procedures, the director of the engineering division of the Road Transport Bureau at the ministry, Mr Masatoshi Matsunaga, said. He added that the new system would cut costs and red tape.

● **SOUTH KOREA'S** industrial production index rose to a provisional and seasonally adjusted 146.1 in January, up 2.0 per cent from December and up 15.4 per cent from a year earlier, the economic planning board said.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
City of London	9%
Consolidated City	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co.	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Wells & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

† Yearly deposits on basis of 12 months, then 6 months, 3 months and 1 month.

Cadbury Schweppes

1983 PROFIT UP 19% TO £107m

	1983 £m	1982 £m	% Change
Group sales	1,702.8	1,494.2	+14.0
Trading profit	125.6	104.8	+19.8
Group profit before tax	106.9	89.7	+19.2
Dividends	24.2	21.9	+10.5
Earnings per share (not basis)	13.60p	10.98p	+23.9

1983 was a year of progress, when we built successfully on the changed geographical balance of the business, to which we have been working over the last few years.

All regions improved their return on operating assets.

The board is recommending a final dividend of 3.90p per unit (1982: 3.50p), giving a total for the year of 5.40p (4.90p).

North America's trading profit rose 37%, tripling its profit over the last three years. It remains the fastest growing region and is broadly enough based to meet its growth targets through further investment in its existing activities.

Australia, where trading profit was up by 36%, has also shown a consistently high rate of growth which is a considerable achievement in a highly competitive market.

With the benefit of the company's investment programme coming

through, the United Kingdom's trading profit increased by 11%. Sales and market share achievements in the region were encouraging and this was broadly the picture for the rest of Europe.

Companies outside the main regions played their full part in the improvement in the Group results.

During 1983 there were encouraging signs of trade picking up around the world and of business confidence returning. The company is well-placed to take advantage of the opportunities for growth through its geographical spread and the strength of its international brands.

Challenging objectives have been set for 1984 and I am confident that the year will prove to be one of further achievement.

Adrian Cadbury
Chairman

SALES AND TRADING PROFIT BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGION

	Sales		Trading profit	
	1983 £m	1982 £m	1983 £m	1982 £m
United Kingdom	823.9	771.7	57.3	51.5
Europe	196.2	172.6	10.6	9.4
America	374.8	279.6	28.9	19.6
Australia	188.7	166.3	17.5	12.9
Other overseas	119.2	104.0	13.3	11.4
	1,702.8	1,494.2	125.6	104.8



Copies of the Annual Report will be sent to all shareholders. Further copies will be available from the Secretary.

Cadbury Schweppes p.l.c., Leconfield House, Curzon Street, London W1Y 7FB

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

Tottenham Hotspur need not be so adventurous. Hart, aptly named, gave Nottingham Forest, who have won all three of their away ties so far, their narrow lead over Sturm Graz. Injuries to Walsh, concussion, and Anderson, dislocated elbow, marred the triumph but time is on their side. They have no match this weekend.

minute penalty by Mazzoni settling the issue. The game boiled over in the players' tunnel when Peterborough's captain, Hankin, squared up to Aldershot defender Souter and was "sent off" by Stockport referee Peter Tyldsley.

home fixture before the World Cup match against Finland in September. Discussing Ireland, Robson added: "In the years we don't meet on competitive terms I am sure the associations will welcome the chance to arrange fixtures."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chesham 2, Stourbridge 0, Sutton Coldfield 1, Gloucester 1.
 Midland division: Merthyr Tydfil 1, Leicester U 1, Milton Keynes 2, Forest Green 2.
ATHLETIC LEAGUE: Flackwell Heath 1, Marlow 3, Wolverhampton 0, Chesham St Peter 2.
CSLUE: First division: Newcastle U 1, Sheffield U 0.
 Second division: Huddersfield 1, Middlebrough 1.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Norwich 0, Southamton 0, Oxford United 1, Hem 3.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Burton Albion 0, Grantham 2.
Bass Cup, second round replay: Moseley 1, South Liverpool 0.
Talent round replay: Workcap 1, Barrow 0.

RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCHES: Bridgend 18, Swansea 8;
 Newport 35, Ebbw Vale 3; Oxford University
 22, Oxfordshire 8; Rugby 12, RAF 8; Tredegar
 24, Aberystwyth 4; Measing 10, South
 Glamorgan Institute 28.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Beyond reach: Bailey flies through the air in an unsuccessful attempt to save from Roj

By David Miller

The truth is that Stapleton is unlikely now to improve; White-side, for all the interest in him, too, in Italy, is ultimately limited because of his lack of pace; Graham's current loss of form is such that Hughes was preferred as deputy for the

The League are insisting that debts to member clubs - in

Chesterfield in the clear

● Luton Town's £318,000 bill for the acquisition of the players, Paul Walsh and Paul Elliott, caused the club to lose £492,000 in the financial year to May 31, 1983. The figures

DISCUSSION

By Clive White

tain, may find himself forced out on merit for the next tie. Brazil seems to have regained his confidence by scoring reely in the reserves and boldly promises at least to add another six to his league total of one. His erratic style, like a smouldering firework, will cause him to be the object of adulation or scorn wherever he performs. Last month he added a transfer request to that of Archibald, his more restless and successful Scottish partner.

Re Paul Newman

Harrow, Sutton and Wothring all say they would be keen to join a regionalized Alliance, but Jim Thompson, the Alliance chairman, said: "If there was reorganization in the lower levels of the Football League we would regionalize too, but that is the only circumstance in which we would do so. If none of the Irishman clubs apply to join us it would be a tragedy. A lot of people

By George Chesterton

Ghent probe
Brussels (Reuter) - Police have

Brussels (Reuters) - Police have interrogated six Ghent football club officials over suspected illegal transfer payments to players, a spokesman for the Brussels crown prosecutor's office said yesterday. The six, included the treasurer, Alexis de Clercq, aged 28, who is the son of the Belgian finance minister, Willy de Clercq.

Strian Close, who was sacked by

Test for Miandad
Karachi (Reuters) - The Pakistan batsman, Javed Miandad, who is flying to the United States on Monday for a fitness test, may after all play in the the third and final

1000

is flowering

TABLE TENNIS

Reardon in the form of a champion

y Lambert, a teenage qualifier
n Devon, the first round of this

SKIING: Ingemar Stenmark, of Sweden, scored his seventh World Cup win of the season in the giant slalom on Vail Mountain in Colorado on Wednesday. Stenmark had a combined time of 2 min 50.34 sec, 0.85 sec ahead of Switzerland's Pirmin Zurbriggen.

● Christin Cooper, of the United States, captured first place in the

...a big booming attack, is one of

MOTOR RACING: The International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) yesterday cleared Kyalami racing track to stage the formula one South African Grand Prix on April 7.

By William

Maxwell, a second lieutenant in the Royal Greenjackets, played well. Michael Taylor (RGS Guildford & Downing) played with the Cambridge slow left-arm spin bowler Archibald Cottrell (Downside & Peterhouse) and they dominated in the first set, with

_____ and William Bristowe

RECORD

TABLE TENNIS

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: (At Csepel, Hungary) 2: Yugoslavia 4-3; (At Poznan, Czechoslovakia) 2: Poland 4-3; (At Ostersund, Sweden) 2: West Germany 6-1.

SNOOKER

EBBW VALE: Welsh professional champion abiles. First round: R. Reardon bt M Owen 6-1.

GOLF

TENNIS

BRUSSELS: Belgian Indoor Championships T
Lindstedt (Swe) 6-4 E Tietzsch (US) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, 1-6
Lindz (Cz) 6-1 Piller (C) 6-3, 2-6, 6-0; G
Lindz (Cz) 6-1 Piller (C) 6-3, 2-6, 6-0; G
Lindz (Cz) 6-1 Piller (C) 6-3, 2-6, 6-0; G
Lindz (Cz) 6-1 Piller (C) 6-3, 2-6, 6-0; G

MEXICO CITY: P. Corch (AUS) 6-3, 6-3.
P. Corch (AUS) 6-3, 6-3.
P. Corch (AUS) 6-3, 6-3.
P. Corch (AUS) 6-3, 6-3.
P. Corch (AUS) 6-3, 6-3.

PARIS: A. Gomez (ECU) 6-3, 6-3.
A. Gomez (ECU) 6-3, 6-3.
A. Gomez (ECU) 6-3, 6-3.
A. Gomez (ECU) 6-3, 6-3.
A. Gomez (ECU) 6-3, 6-3.

b T Kuenzler (WG) 17-15, 15-3;
 au Pansathwong (Thal) b Syed Mod

HIGH JUMP: 1. K Krawczyk (P), 7h 2ndst; 2. D
 Brahams (E), 7:03s; 3. M Włodarczyk (P),
 6:10s; 4. M Naylor (E), 6:10s.
 TRIPLE JUMP: 1. J Harbert (E), 54:1s; 2. W
 olanicki (P), 53:1s; 3. A Grabarczyk (E),
 51:11s; 4. D Johnson (E), 48:2s.
 SHOT: 1. H Krieger (P), 67:1s; 2. J Ciesnowski
 (E), 65:6s; 3. W Cole (E), 57:7s; 4. N Tabor (E),
 55:4s.
 POLE VAULT: 1. M Kłimek (P), 18:5; 2. M
 Kolesa (P), 17:8s; equal 3. K Stock (E), W
 Jwaś (E), 16:5s.

East (Indo) Bt Tariq Wadood (Pak) 15-2-73 (Wadood retired hurt); E. Jolly (Pak)

BIATHLON
OLIMPIENKOLLEN, Norway: World Cup event.
E Kvåløys (Nor), 32min 0.0sec; 2, P Anger
(Ger), 32.18.1; 3, F P Roetsch (Ger), 32.18.2.

0-10-11

50

Sportswoman whose success provoked envy and criticism

By Pat Butcher

A lot of people will breathe easier when Jarmila Kratochvílová retires from athletics, as she has promised, after the Olympic Games in Los Angeles this summer. Half of those people are the athletes who have watched her breathless chasing her as she fought her way to two world championship gold medals and two world records last year. The other half are critics breathing fire and brimstone, and "drugs" as the reason for Miss Kratochvílová's success.

"Why have I never met the people who write these things?" Miss Kratochvílová asked with resignation before she started to warm up for her race at Cosford on Wednesday evening.

It is saddening to have to begin an interview with a great athlete on such a subject but with the help of the Polish team manager as interpreter, Miss Kratochvílová and her husband, the Polish coach, detailed simply and proudly their rebuttals of the widespread criticism.

Miss Kratochvílová has built up over 17 years of training with already a peasant girl's body into muscular physique, and she has passed every drug test to which she has been submitted since winning the Olympic 400 metres silver medal behind Maria Koch of East Germany, in Moscow in 1980.

Miss Kratochvílová won the 400 metres dual in the World Cup in 1981. But Miss Koch got her revenge in the European championships in Athens in 1982, and improved her own record to 48.16 seconds.

An injury restricted Miss Koch last year but she won the 200 metres in Helsinki, where she saw her world record broken as Miss Kratochvílová won the 400 metres in 47.99 seconds. The Czechoslovakian athlete then won by a hair's breadth, their only dual of the year, in the European Cup 200 metres in London.

Miss Kratochvílová also won the 800 metres. The Los Angeles time table has the two finals only 15 minutes apart, and she cannot yet decide between the 400 metres and Maria Koch, or 800 metres and certain victory. That says something for her competitive spirit for she admits that Miss Koch is the only competitor she fears.

She was amused and a little surprised to learn that Barbel Wöckel, who had been at Cosford with the East German team a month ago, and whose record, coincidentally it was that Miss Kratochvílová broke on Wednesday, said that her team consensus was that Miss Koch would not beat Miss Kratochvílová this year.

ENGLAND'S TEAM in United States, RAF, Cosford, Saturday: 400 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 48.16; 800 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 2:00.50; 1500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 4:30.00; 2000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 6:00.00; 2500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 7:30.00; 3000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 9:00.00; 3500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 10:30.00; 4000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 12:00.00; 4500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 13:30.00; 5000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 15:00.00; 5500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 16:30.00; 6000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 18:00.00; 6500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 19:30.00; 7000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 21:00.00; 7500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 22:30.00; 8000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 24:00.00; 8500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 25:30.00; 9000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 27:00.00; 9500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 28:30.00; 10000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 30:00.00; 10500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 31:30.00; 11000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 33:00.00; 11500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 34:30.00; 12000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 36:00.00; 12500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 37:30.00; 13000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 39:00.00; 13500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 40:30.00; 14000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 42:00.00; 14500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 43:30.00; 15000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 45:00.00; 15500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 46:30.00; 16000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 48:00.00; 16500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 49:30.00; 17000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 51:00.00; 17500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 52:30.00; 18000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 54:00.00; 18500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 55:30.00; 19000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 57:00.00; 19500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 58:30.00; 20000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 60:00.00; 20500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 61:30.00; 21000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 63:00.00; 21500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 64:30.00; 22000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 66:00.00; 22500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 67:30.00; 23000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 69:00.00; 23500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 70:30.00; 24000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 72:00.00; 24500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 73:30.00; 25000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 75:00.00; 25500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 76:30.00; 26000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 78:00.00; 26500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 79:30.00; 27000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 81:00.00; 27500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 82:30.00; 28000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 84:00.00; 28500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 85:30.00; 29000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 87:00.00; 29500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 88:30.00; 30000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 90:00.00; 30500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 91:30.00; 31000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 93:00.00; 31500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 94:30.00; 32000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 96:00.00; 32500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 97:30.00; 33000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 99:00.00; 33500 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 100:00.00; 34000 metres, J. Kratochvílová, 101:30.00; 34500 metres, J. 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Boxing: latest blow in the growing campaign for abolition

Board slow to come out of corner

By Srikanth Sen
Boxing Correspondent

British boxing may never recover from the blow it received yesterday from the British Medical Association. The doctors' report hit the sport from all angles. And at their annual meeting in July they look certain to reaffirm their decision to campaign vigorously for the abolition of boxing.

Many may say "we've heard that one before". Back in 1969 when the Royal College of Physicians' report came out. Boxing survived that. This time it is different. Techniques for detecting brain damage have improved so much that they make the RCP method of inquiry look crude in comparison.

But the most damaging aspect of the inquiry is that the British Boxing Board of Control did not see fit to talk to the boxers. Their reason for this non-cooperation, according to Dr Adrian Whitson, the board's senior medical officer, is that the doctors used emotive language when calling for the campaign to ban boxing.

"We told them three weeks after that meeting in 1982 that if they rescinded that resolution we would give them all the help we needed. They did not rescind the resolution." The board's secretary, Ray Clarke, said: "We did not like their terms of reference, especially the bit about making recommendations in relation to their resolutions."

In view of the attack coming from such a powerful and eminent body as the BMA it is not surprising that the board is putting its head under the quilt hoping that the bogymen will go away, as it has in the past. But I do not think it will this time.

Dr Robert Button, of Preston, who started the ball rolling at that 1982 meeting said: "It will need a two-thirds majority to reverse the decision to campaign for the abolition of boxing, and I cannot see that happening."

Much of the report is couched in medical language above the heads of boxing writers, but at the end the message is clear. The BMA want the board to cooperate with them so that they can set up scan studies that will help them watch how boxers are doing. If boxing is to continue it should do so with the greatest safety to the boxer.



At the receiving end: the power behind the punch

they believe. The boxing board also want that.

There is so much common ground to talk on that it is surprising that the board let such a good chance to put their case pass by. Their unwillingness to cooperate could make them appear in the public eye as a group more interested in their legal position than in the boxers' health. Their refusal will not look good in view of the bad publicity they received on television concerning the tug-of-war over Noel Quarless. It may look as if they are

more interested in political infighting between promoters than the boxers' health.

It is a pity that something of the spirit of an article that appeared recently in *Boxing News*, the most influential paper on sport in Britain, should not imbue the board with a determination to put their point of view as the Amateur Boxing Association did. In that article, Eric Armit, a boxing statistician who is a consultant to the board on overseas boxing and a member of the World Boxing Council ratings

committee, bemoans the fact that political issues and sizes of purses are talked about more than the boxers' safety.

Armit begins his piece with: "Boxing News has always been a clean magazine, clean of all obscenities. I am about to change all of that and give notice to all those of a nervous disposition that I am now going to use a dirty word - safety." After two pages on the confused state of safety in boxing he concluded, "when we can generate enough money to give one fighter five million dollars but cannot come up with a tenth of that for a pension scheme for boxers or a medical centre exclusively dedicated to the sport, our values are all wrong."

"When our sport is attacked we all close ranks, all that I ask is that we never close our minds to the fact that boxing is about boxers and we should always be looking for ways to increase their safety."

Whatever the rights and wrongs, and the legalities and freedoms involved in all the debate, it is surprising that members of the board, who must call in a doctor when they or their loved ones fall ill, should as one man question the motives of a body such as the BMA. If the matter is as important enough to be brought up in Parliament, then surely it is important enough for doctors to show concern.

If the meeting in July decides to go ahead with their campaign to abolish boxing, the doctors could bring the weight of their medical science and application on top of the board. Then the gloves will really be off. We could well see the BMA asking the Health Minister to see that boxers sign a document of informed consent similar to that given to patients prior to a serious operation.

Dr Button, who was disappointed that the board did not help in the inquiry said that only one thing will make the BMA change their minds. "Take the head out of the target area. The test is, and they have a better chance of recovering than the brain. If boxing is such a skilled sport, use the brain as target." That shows how determined the BMA are to keep up the pressure for abolition.

TENNIS

Wimbledon prizes seem unjust

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

The Wimbledon prize money schedule, announced on Wednesday, seems to contain the familiar, always irritating implication that the three doubles events are not worth the time they occupy on court. It depends how one interprets the percentages allocated to the five championships. These percentages exist because the modern craze for uniformity, largely motivated by the players' associations, has deprived Wimbledon and other tournaments of much of their independence.

There are so many special interests within the professional game that those of us on the outside must try to assess, impartially, whether the percentages allocated to the five championships makes sense. This is difficult because there are so many ineluctable: the importance of every event, the levels of skill and effort required, as well as their appeal to spectators and to another, valuable source of revenue, television.

The only measurable factor is the quantity of entertainment provided. Allowing a rough average of four sets for every men's match and 2.5 sets for every women's match, the prize money for each match, in common with comparable tournaments, could be accused of injustice to doubles.

The percentages allocated this year are as follows, with the desirable percentages (based on the quantity of entertainment provided) in parentheses: men's singles, 40.0 (37.0); men's doubles, 11.46 (23.13); women's singles, 8.43 (11.48); mixed doubles, 5.06 (10.20). In short, the prize money percentages bear little relation to the amount of tennis played in the various championships.

Miss Brasher comes from below to win

By Lewine Mair

Kate Brasher, a student at London University, but ranked 202 on the world computer, yesterday beat Joanne Louis, the British number two, in the first round of the T&E & Lyle British Women's Tennis Association (BWT&L) weekend tournament at Telford.

Another match likely to catch the eye in what is the first of two T&E & Lyle weekends - the second starts at Bournemouth on March 16 - is that between Julie Salmons, the first seed, and Denise Parnell, winner of the British 18 and under grass courts championships in 1983 and 1984 in the world.

Miss Salmons has the more impressive credentials. Miss Parnell, however, is an assiduous little player and one intent on making a comeback after a bout of glandular fever.

Sally Reeves whose feet are always on the move both on court and round the world, meets up with Bettina Borneo, who has another encounter worthy of mention is that between Allison Grant and Nicola Lusit.

Today's fixtures

FOURTH DIVISION
Hull City v Stockport County (7.30).
CENTRAL LEAGUE First division: Everton v Southampton (7.30).
FOOTBALL CONSERVATION Luton v Fulham (7.30).
RUGBY LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION: Warrington v Featherstone (7.30).
SECOND DIVISION: Warrington v Brighouse (7.30).
THIRD DIVISION: Warrington v Brighouse (7.30).

OTHER SPORT
TENNIS: British Women's Tennis Association weekend tournament (at West Midlands Tennis and Racquet Centre, Telford, 9.30).
R&L: T&E & Lyle British Women's Tennis Association weekend tournament (at Telford, 10.30).
SHOCKERS: Welsh Professional Championship, quarter final: Llanelli, Ebbw Vale, 2.30 and 7.30.

CRICKET: FOUR CHANGES FOR THE OPENING ONE DAY MATCH

England's outsiders are recalled to take part in a short, sharp bunfight

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Lahore

The four players left out of the England team in the first Test match - Dilley, Foster, Fowler and Tave - all get a game in the first of the two one-day internationals against Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium here today. Cook, Cowans, Smith and Taylor make way for them. Cowans has a slightly strained groin, Foster, who has played 32 of the 33 days cricket on the tour, will benefit from a rest. Fowler will keep wicket.

Both captain and manager are understandably disappointed that it is only a 40 over match, the same as the Sunday bunfights in England. With a 9.30 start, as there is, and 5.10 finish, and no extension to the lunch interval to allow for Friday rain. Yesterday every available schoolchild was on parade to cheer the president of the Peoples Republic of China as he passed through the decorated streets. The security was for him this time, and Tausif, the two bowlers to cause England most trouble in Karachi. Willis sees this one-day series as being of limited use as preparation for the remaining Test matches. Previous one-day international in Pakistan have been of the same duration. Their main one-day competition, however, the Willis Cup, is over 45.

Fowler and Tave will be going in first, although Willis feels that the experiment of opening with Gatting in the first Test match was "a complete failure". Willis makes no apologies, and why should he, for harping on about the England batting, "usually he says, 'you expect two or three of your batsmen to have a poor tour. This time five out of eight have'."

Yesterday he made a point of saying how much Dilley has been contributing to the practices - a sign of "increasing maturity". But one got the impression that Tave is to have an outstanding match Willis would most like it to be Tave, of whom he is such a confirmed fan.

This is an eventful week in Lahore. Yesterday every available schoolchild was on parade to cheer the president of the Peoples Republic of China as he passed through the decorated streets. The security was for him this time, and Tausif, the two bowlers to cause England most trouble in Karachi. Willis sees this one-day series as being of limited use as preparation for the remaining Test matches. Previous one-day international in Pakistan have been of the same duration. Their main one-day competition, however, the Willis Cup, is over 45.

pitch for the third Test Match, starting here on March 19, but it will have disappeared by then. I expect, and there is now to speak of on the pitch for today. It is a huge playing area, much the same in acreage as Melbourne and the Oval, and it is full of memories. Upset at being told that he was being idle, John Snow bowled faster, in a net on the ground than anyone I have ever seen - at Tom Graveney, his vice captain. Snow was still left out of the England team for the next day's Test match, in which Colin Cowdrey made his 22nd and last hundred for England. This gave Cowdrey a full house of Test hundreds - one in every Test playing country, South Africa included.

It was in Lahore Test match in 1978 that Geoff Miller, not for the first or last time, came tantalisingly close to his first-century hundred. He was in the seventies when Willis joined him for the last wicket, and he had got to 98 when Willis became Abdul Qadir's first Test victim. That was the match in which the Pakistan side for today's one-day game) made what remains to this day the slowest hundred in Test cricket.

It took him 537 minutes and prompted this tribute in the brochure for the one-day international in Sialkot soon afterwards: "A few years from now few will remember the result of the Test played in Lahore. But everyone who did see it, or heard the commentary or read the details in the newspapers will remember Mudasar setting the glorious record of the slowest runngeting and truly becoming the son of his father, the great Nazir" there, in a couple of sentences, who has the essence of cricket in Pakistan.

Nazir's fame came from having made Pakistan's first-ever test victory - against India at Litchton in 1952. In Pakistan's only innings he carried his bat for 134 not out. Those were the days of the wars of attrition, fought out on jute matting, when runs came at an over.

TEAM: G. Foster, C. Tave, D. Dilley, D. W. Foster, D. W. Foster, V. J. Mair, G. H. Doherty, R. G. Doherty, M. Doherty.

Nash for Shropshire

Malcolm Nash who hit for six sixes in an over by Gary Sobers in 1968, has signed to play Minor Counties cricket for Shropshire.



Back in business: (from left) Foster, Dilley, Tave and Fowler all return to the England side

Australia's long shot

The Australians are requesting matches against the counties to be played over four days on their tour of England next year. Recently their sides have suffered against bad weather while over here, and they hope that four-day games would eliminate the need to declare and make a match of it, so guaranteeing their batsmen more early-to-practice.

The Australian suggestion was debated by the Test and County Cricket Board's spring meeting at Lord's on Wednesday. The Board have pledged themselves to help, but have pointed out that in a light of the schedule the Australians could be involved in more hectic travel if their games were spread from Sunday to Tuesday, rather than ending on a Monday.

The 1983 Ashes fixtures were also considered by the Board, which gave back a Test match to Manchester. The original schedule involved two matches at Lord's and none at Old Trafford. The six matches will be spread over the traditional venues, with Manchester's Test starting on August 1.

Counties will be allowed freedom to negotiate contracts from any sponsor for shirt advertising. Previously, only the makers of the shirt have been allowed their logo on equipment. The TCCB are watching the experiment in the hope of introducing a national equipment sponsor for 1985.

● Lancashire will defend the Asda Challenge Cup they won last year, against the Scarborough cricket festival at the end of August.

N Zealand go for spin

Asitjaya, Sri Lanka (Reuters) - New Zealand's selection panel yesterday included the two spin bowlers, Bracewell and Book, in a squad of 12 for the first Test against Sri Lanka, starting here today.

The Wellington opening batsman, Edgar, and the right-arm medium pace bowler, Stirling, were left out. A start on tomorrow seems very unlikely. The New Zealand team manager, Basil McBurney, said.

The rain has been a problem for New Zealand since their arrival 10 days ago. Howarth said: "We have not had much cricket, and it is causing us a little bit of concern."

The first three-day game, at Galle last week, was reduced to two days because of rain. A second three-day match, against Sri Lanka Cricket Board President's XI at Radella this week, was also reduced, after rain restricted play to only 133 minutes. Only the first one-day international, which the touring team won by 104 runs last Saturday, was uninterrupted.

Nevertheless, New Zealand have adapted quickly to the slow, grassless wickets.

Sri Lanka also have cause for concern, following the poor performances of their players against the touring side so far, but they were heartened yesterday by the news that the middle-order batsmen, Ranjan Madugalle, had been declared fit.

HOCKEY

Ireland are confident

A year has passed since England beat Ireland in the final of the Wembley Cup and the match of the year has come around again. Tomorrow England face Ireland. Ireland are different from Wales. Modern Ireland are different from modern Wales. Then it was a surprise when Ireland beat England at Wembley for the first time.

Now the winner is anyone's guess, especially since Ireland worked their way up from being seeded ninth in the inter-continental Cup in Kuala Lumpur to win the trophy.

This will be the first time that the winner at Wembley will receive a trophy. The sponsors, who have provided this and it will be presented by Miss Mary Peters, the great of honour.

Sunday is the British Colleges Day. Their semi-finals (11.0) and final will be played on the grounds of the College of St Paul and St Mary in Cheltenham. Chester Bedford at The Folly and Avery Hill v Bulmershe at Harwick, both in Swindon Road. The final will be at 14.00 hours on The Folly ground.

YACHTING

Perth launch defence

By John Nicholls
The Royal Perth Yacht Club's defence of the America's Cup in 1987 has been strengthened by the intended formation of a second syndicate to cooperate with Alan Bond. Peter Briggs, a mining magnate in association with Noel Robins, who skippered Bond's yacht Australia in the 1977 challenge, is at present finalising the details of his proposed budget.

If he confirms his commitment, he expects his contender for the defence of the cup to be designed by Ben Lexcen, who was responsible for Bond's Australia and Australia II, Bond's winning yacht last year. As well as being a potential skipper, Robins is the newly-appointed executive director of the Royal Perth's Admiral Cup defence committee.

One of his colleagues, Noel Semmens, is responsible for the formidable task of preparing Freemantle for the expected influx of boats and people as the 1987 challenge gains momentum. At present there are only two berths for 12 metre yachts, where up to 20 might be needed. Marinas for a huge fleet of spectator craft will have to be constructed and a charter fleet assembled.

An estimate of the number of final challengers cannot be made until the deadline for challenges expires at the end of next month. So far the Royal Perth has received only one proper challenge, from the Costa Smeralda Yacht Club in Sardinia. It is unthinkable that there will not be at least one challenge from the United States, plus two or three others.

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ANIMALS AND BIRDS

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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مکرمات الامم

Armagh UDR man shot dead by IRA

From Richard Ford Belfast

The Provisional IRA shot dead a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment yesterday in their fourth killing in six days.

Mr David Montgomery, aged 24, who had vowed never to use his personal revolver because of the difficulty of explaining its use afterwards, was killed in an attack by two masked men as he served in a petrol station near Moira, co. Armagh. One man held up customers and staff with a shotgun, while the other shot Mr Montgomery several times at point-blank range.

They fled in a waiting van in dense fog. Mr Montgomery is the fourth member of the regiment to be killed this year.

The North Armagh brigade of the Provisional IRA admitted responsibility, saying that claims by Mr James Prior, the Northern Ireland Secretary, that the level of terrorism was being reduced were "patent nonsense".

Mr Montgomery, a single man from Aghalee, co. Armagh had been in the UDR for four years and recently told his local church minister that if attacked by gunmen he would not use his own revolver because there were so many restrictions on its use.

The British Government, meanwhile, was given a noisy foretaste of the likely reaction of Ulster Unionists to any idea of sharing sovereignty over Northern Ireland between Dublin and London.

Reacting to an Associated Press report that Mr Prior had not dismissed the idea of unionist politicians on Wednesday, the newspaper devoted almost all its front page to the issue under the headline "Treachery".

The most moribund Northern Ireland Assembly was galvanised into an emergency debate on the report late on Wednesday. The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, led the attack on Mr Prior.

As some voices advised members to wait for the text, the Assembly demanded that Mr Prior appear before them. Yesterday morning's *Northern Irelander* newspaper devoted almost all its front page to the issue under the headline "Treachery".

Mr Prior firmly denied ever using the words "joint sovereignty" in a conversation he had had with a group of American journalists.

Maze chief's premonition of death



Mrs Beryl McConnell at her husband's funeral in East Belfast yesterday

From Richard Ford Belfast

Mr William McConnell, the deputy prison governor murdered by the IRA, went to his grave yesterday leaving a puzzling letter written after he had a premonition of his death.

The handwritten epitaph entitled "My demise" and addressed to "all in attendance" was read to hushed mourners at his funeral, and clearly linked his killing with his decision last month to criticize publicly the Hennessy Report into last year's escape at the Maze prison.

In one of the more bizarre moments of the present troubles Mr McConnell's cousin, a Presbyterian minister, read the letter, written the day after Mr McConnell, aged 35, appeared on television in silhouette to defend himself and prison staff against criticism in the report. The Rev David McGaughey said: "Some of us believe he has paid the price for expressing those courageous views."

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland said last night that he would be making inquiries in an attempt

to establish the full meaning of the letter.

Mr McGaughey told mourners, including the dead man's wife, Beryl, who packed the Mount Pottinger Baptist church in East Belfast: "It will be difficult for me to read this letter, and it will be difficult for you to hear it."

The letter said: "I have decided to write this statement since I have come to the conclusion that the public interest is best served by knowing that whatever happens to me, I spoke the truth."

"I did not take the decision to go public on the matter of the

Hennessy report lightly. I realized the danger I was placing myself and others in, when, in consultation with my colleagues on the committee of the Prison Governors' Association, I agreed to act as their spokesman."

"You will be gathered today asking questions which only a full investigation of the facts will reveal. Clearly, in attempting that process to continue, someone has decided that I should play no further part in the proceedings. I feel sorry for them, and can only pray that their part in the story, will one day be revealed."

"My wife, Beryl, has been supportive of all I have done. I would commend her, and call 'Mr McConnell's daughter' to your keeping and prayers."

"Finally, let no one be alarmed as to my eternal security. In March 1966, I committed my life, talents, work and actions to Almighty God in sure, and certain knowledge that however slight my hold upon Him may have been during my years at school, university and the prison service, His promises are sure, and His hold on me complete. Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The church was crowded with colleagues from the prison service, including the former governor, Mr Ernest Whittington, and his successor, Mr Stanley Hilditch, scouts and leading Unionist politicians including the Rev Ian Paisley.

Mr McGaughey said that he did not know what lay behind the part of the letter which dealt with the reasons for the killing. He said that Mrs McConnell had not known of the letter before the murder and it was the first of its kind he had come across.



Mr William McConnell (left) and the Rev David McGaughey

Fowler puts prescription charges up by 14%

Continued from page 1

more complex treatment rises by more than 15 per cent, from £95 to £110. The charges for crowns, inlays and gold teeth rise by 18 per cent to £59.

Charges for health service increases by between 20p and £1.00, with the maximum charge per less rising by £1 to £16.50.

Charges for private patients in health service hospitals will rise by an average of 9 per cent, but within that there are wide variations.

Pay bed charges for provincial teaching hospitals, which tend to set the benchmark for private hospital bed charges outside London, are to rise by only 6.4 per cent to £115 a day for single rooms.

The cost of pay beds in London teaching hospitals is to rise by only 3.6 per cent, less than inflation, to £140 a day. Pay beds in two of the London post-graduate hospitals, the National Heart and Chest Hospitals and the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, are to rise by more than 24 per cent to £192 a day for single rooms to reflect the very specialized treatment they offer.

The increases will provide an extra £37m income for the health service.

Strike hits French services

Continued from page 1

The strike was well followed by most other unions, however. Three out of four mainline trains and two in three Paris Metro trains had to be cancelled yesterday. Three out of four buses in Paris were also not running.

Most Air France domestic flights were cancelled, but long-distance flights were relatively little affected. Out-going flights of other airlines were also subject to lengthy delays and some cancellations.

At ports and frontier posts, there were delays due to strike action by customs officials, but no serious disruption was reported.

Power cuts throughout the country lasted between two and four hours. Many schools closed for the day or sent children home early as 40 per cent of the teaching staff went on strike.

Letter from Paris

Sharing the street with 500,000 dogs

One does not think of the French as a nation of animal lovers, yet they own nine million dogs and nine million cats - one and a half times as many as there are in Britain.

In Paris alone, there are 500,000 dogs, one for every four inhabitants. The pet, particularly in its canine form is rapidly becoming a pest.

A little blonde girl was killed earlier this week as she played with one of her great-aunt's dogs next to her home. The animal, part Alsatian, which was kept outside the house on a three-foot chain day in, day out, went berserk, tearing at the child's arms, legs, face and neck. She did not even have time to cry out. It was all over in a matter of seconds.

She was the fourth person to be killed this year by dogs in France. A few days earlier, a 62-year-old woman was eaten alive after being attacked by guard dogs. Last month, a man, aged 66, was killed by three Alsatians which had escaped from their compound. The month before, a postman was killed as he was doing his rounds in Brittany, and a 12-year-old boy barely escaped with his life after being attacked by his neighbour's dogs on his way home from school. His younger brother had been savaged by the same dogs a few months earlier.

There is no law in France obliging owners to have dangerous dogs put down. Provided the animal is free of rabies, it can continue to be kept as a guard dog or pet, even if it has killed, while the human killer is put away for life. An estimated 500,000 people were bitten by dogs in France last year; nearly half required hospital treatment.

Postmen are, of course, favourite targets: 10 are bitten on average every day. But hospital records show that the most common victim is a child, who is bitten either by the family's own dog or a dog belonging to neighbours. Males are 40 per cent more likely to be attacked than females. Alsatians are often the culprits.

Vets blame the owner not the animal. Guard dogs in particular often live under appalling conditions, cooped up all day in a cage or small garden, or kept tethered on a leash, hardly ever being taken for a run, and trained to attack any stranger on sight. Small wonder they go wild when

they escape or when someone unknown approaches them.

Every year, some 250,000 stray dogs and cats are taken into animal shelters. Most have been deliberately abandoned by their owners, often at the beginning of the long summer holidays.

"It is obvious, isn't it?" one director of an animal protection society said. "You put the old people in a home, the children in a holiday camp and the dogs out onto the road, and off you go on your own holiday."

Going for a walk in the French countryside can be far from a peaceful affair if you route happens to take you through a village. You are liable to be frightened out of your wits as a great brute comes bounding towards you, snarling, barking its head off, and no one seems to be around to call it off.

In town, Paris in particular, it is more the mess rather than the noise or the danger, that is the bother. Twenty tons of excrement and nearly 500,000 gallons of urine are deposited on the capital's pavements and parks every day by "man's best friend". Paris is filthy. One friend of mine insists that his guests take off their shoes before they enter her flat.

They have tried green dachshund-shaped signs, with an arrow pointing to the gutter. These have been painted on the pavement at what officials, but not dogs, considered suitable spots.

Self-cleaning, hygienic, public conveniences for dogs have been erected at great cost, but the dogs detest the cold, damp tiles and clean smell.

A year and half ago, the city introduced a fleet of *canines*, better known in America as "pooper scoopers". These are mechanized sweepers, fitted to the back of a motorcycle, which descend on the offending pile and scoop it up with the aid of rapidly rotating brushes. Similar hand-pushed *canines*, which look like lawn mowers, have been introduced to cope with gravel paths and lawns in the city's parks.

Residents are said to have reported a marked improvement in cleanliness since the introduction, though I cannot say that I have noticed any difference where I live.

Diana Geddes

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales visits the Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, 10.15.
The Princess of Wales visits the Sue Ryder Home at Leckhampton Court, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, 11.

New exhibitions

Travelling the Herring - displays A photos from the past: Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde.

Richmond St. Glasgow: Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4 (closed Sun) (ends March 30).
Nick Hughes Photographic Exhibition: Oriol 31, 51 High St, Walspool, Powys: Mon to Sat 11 to 5, (closed Sun) (ends March 29).

Last chance to see

A retrospective exhibition by John Kington, Terms to Gentles, including Kellogg's Cinema Gallery, Lloyds House, 16 Lloyd Street, Manchester: Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30 (ends today).

Recent paintings, drawings and collages by Lys Hansen: "Cover Story": Artwork from the Women's Press: Theatre Graphics by Richard Bird: Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow: Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

Music

Concert by the Ganelin Trio, Solent Suite, Guildhall, Southampton, 8.
Concert by the Young Performers' Festival, Fifth Hall, Western Bank, Sheffield, 7.30.
Concert by the Radio Sheffield Choir Spring Concert with Vivien Pike (soprano) and Paul Parsons (organ), St. Matthew's Church, Carver Street, Sheffield, 7.30.
Concert by the Locris String Quartet, Northgate High School, Ipswich, Suffolk, 2 and 7.30.
Recital by Simon Gay (counter tenor) and Catherine Edwards (accompanist), West Oxfordshire Technical College, Witney, Oxfordshire, 7.30.
Concert by the Alberti Quartet, the King's School, Ottery St Mary, Devon, 7.30.
Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Bournemouth Sinfonietta, St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth, 7.30.

Talks

Social security tribunals - a pattern for administrative justice? by Dr Michael Goodman, Elvet Riverside Lecture Rooms, New Elvet, University of Durham, Durham City, 12.
Roman Britain from the air by Mr D. R. Wilson, Attenborough Lecture Theatre, University of Leicester, Leicester, 5.15.
Telescopes old and new by Professor F. Graham Smith, The Pump Room, Bath, 7.30.
The Appellate Mosaic by the Rt Hon Lord Templeman, Haworth Lecture Theatre, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, 7.30.
Ethics, law and self-regulation: the press, the city and the future by Sir Patrick Neill, 11, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, 11.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private Member's motion on relations with the Soviet Union.

Anniversaries

Births: William Cobbett radical, Farnham, Surrey, 1763; Ernest Bavin, Foreign Secretary, 1945-51; Winsford, Somerset, 1881; Victoria Sackville-West, novelist and poet, Knole, Kent, 1892; Deane Arnold Toynbee, social philosopher, London, 1883; William I King of Prussia and German emperor, Berlin, 1888; Frank Wedekind, actor and dramatist, Munich, 1918.

Mausoleum opening

The Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore near Windsor, will be open to the public free of charge on Wednesday, May 23, between 11am and 4pm. Buckingham Palace has announced. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert are buried in the mausoleum, and many members of their family are buried in the surrounding grounds.

Food prices

British beef is not as highly thought of as it used to be, partly because of changes in the popularity of cattle breeds. Today the meat and boneless shoulder at 98p a pound, and rump steak at £2.40 to £3.10 a pound. Tesco have many cuts of beef on promotion this week, for example, chuck and blade steak for braising and boneless rib at £1.44 a pound. Sainsbury's have reduced chuck and top rib joints to £1.38 a pound.

It is possible with the current increase in pork prices, which is expected to continue, related foods such as sausages and pork pies are likely to become more expensive. Boneless shoulder ranges from 90p to £1.30 a pound, whole legs, 84p to £1.19 a pound, and rib chops 98p to £1.30 a pound. Fine Fare are selling boneless shoulder at 98p a pound.

Some good offers on New Zealand lamb are, whole leg at £1.15 a pound, and half leg at £1.19 a pound from Bejam; whole shoulder at 89p a pound at Safeways; chops at 89p a pound or five pound packs for £4 from Debenhams.

Marks & Spencer are now selling corn-fed chickens, which have a distinctive flavour. They are small birds weighing between two pounds and 2lb 14oz without giblets and cost 85p a pound. British Home Stores have reduced their fresh brown eggs by 15p a dozen ranging from grade one, now 98p a dozen, to grade four, now 71p a dozen. The bad news is eggs will go up by about 3p a dozen from Monday.

Caiflower is cheaper this week, 40p to 55p each. British Prince is particularly good, looks are also slightly cheaper, 30p to 42p a pound; carrots, parsnips and swedes are good, and prices are stable. Jaffa and Cyprus grapefruits at 8p to 12p each, oranges 3p to 40p a pound, and Clementines 35p to 40p a pound, are all excellent. Satsumas, at 32p to 38p a pound, are finishing soon.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.61	1.53
Austria Sch	27.80	26.20
Belgium Fr	82.25	78.25
Canada \$	1.91	1.84
Denmark Kr	14.36	13.66
Finland Mk	8.52	8.12
France Fr	11.97	11.47
Germany DM	3.89	3.71
Greece Dr	161.00	151.00
Hongkong \$	11.70	11.53
Ireland P	1.28	1.23
Italy Lira	2415.00	2315.00
Japan Yen	345.00	329.00
Netherlands Gld	11.74	11.14
Norway Kr	11.41	10.81
Portugal Esc	192.00	186.00
Spain Ptas	1.95	1.81
Switzerland Fr	220.00	211.00
Sweden Kr	11.74	11.14
Switzerland Fr	3.24	3.07
USA \$	1.51	1.46
Yugoslavia Dar	205.00	195.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.
Retail Price Index: 342.6
London: The F.T. index closed 2.3 up at 877.7.

Roads

London and South-east: A11: Eastbound carriageway in Bow Road, between Bromley High Street and the Bow Flyover reduced 0830-1230, westbound, 1200-1600. A56: Single lane traffic in each direction in Edgware Road, Colindale.

Midlands: A449: Traffic signals on Worcester-Malvern Road, near Powick. M5: Lane closures north and southbound between junction 4 (Birmingham SW) and junction 5 (Droitwich). A34: Roadworks south of Shipston on Stour at Tiddington, Warwickshire, 9.15 pm to 5.45 am. A56: Single lane traffic in Washway Road, Sale; diversions signposted.

Wales and West: A417: Delays and diversions via new northern bypass in St Oswalds Road, Gloucester (old A40). A4: Temporary traffic signals in Charlotte Street, Bath, 9.15 pm to 5.45 am. A56: Single lane traffic in Washway Road, Sale; diversions signposted.

North: Queensway Tunnel, Liverpool, closed tonight, all traffic being diverted via the Liverpool Wallasey Tunnel, 9.15 pm to 5.45 am. A56: Single lane traffic in Washway Road, Sale; diversions signposted.

SE, NW Scotland, Argyll: Cloudy, a light rain or drizzle in places; SW light; max temp 5C (41-43F).

W Midlands, SW England, S Wales: Sunny intervals, mainly dry; wind NE light; max temp 10C (49F).

W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Rather cloudy, dry, few bright intervals; wind variable light; max temp 7-8C (45-46F).

NE, NW Scotland, Argyll: Cloudy, a light rain or drizzle in places; SW light; max temp 9-10C (48-50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Most districts dry with sunny intervals; showers in E and S England, spreading to other parts of England and Wales. Generally rather cold, near normal in NW.

SEA FAVOURABLE: S. North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): wind NE fresh to strong, seas moderate, 6 ft to rough. St. George's Channel, Irish Sea: wind light and variable; smooth.

Top films

Top box office films in London:
(1) 101 Dalmatians
(2) The Untouchables
(3) Scarface
(4) The Untouchables
(5) Under Fire
(6) The Untouchables
(7) The Untouchables
(8) The Untouchables
(9) The Untouchables
(10) The Untouchables

The papers

The Daily Mirror points out that the Government has raised the price of being ill. "Appropriately, from All Fools' Day, prescription charges go up to £1.60. New glasses and dental treatment will cost more too," it says, adding that before 1949 there was no equality in medicine between the better-off and the poor. "The NHS changed all that. Now with each new burden, Mr Thatcher is changing it back."

What kind of a country is it which reduces taxes for the healthy and wealthy by putting a tax on the sick? it asks.

The Daily Star says that steadily this Government is eroding the entire concept of a free National Health Service. "The Thatcher line is that if more money is going to be spent on health care, it must come from somewhere, and who better to pay than those making use of the service? The logic may be impeccable, only the credibility is faulty."

Weather forecast

A large, slow-moving anticyclone will persist over the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E, NE England, East Angles, Channel Islands: Windy, scattered showers, wintry in places, especially on hills; wind NE light or moderate; max temp 5-6C (41-43F).

Central S, central N, E Midlands: Cloudy isolated showers; wind NE light; max temp 7C (45F).

W Midlands, SW England, S Wales: Sunny intervals, mainly dry; wind NE light; max temp 10C (49F).

W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Rather cloudy, dry, few bright intervals; wind variable light; max temp 7-8C (45-46F).

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The papers

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS

Low pressure systems are shown in the map. High pressure systems are shown in the map.

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